SUNDAY
June 30, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
26 Pages ₹ 8.00

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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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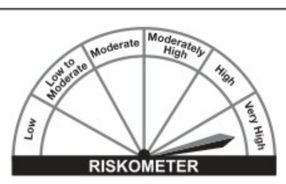


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CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD

# India scripts incredible comeback, wins title

Rohit's men rise to the occasion in summit clash

South Africa loses the plot from the brink of victory

After Kohli-Axar's heroics, Bumrah & Hardik seal it

**Long wait ends:** India won an ICC title after a 11-year drought, its last triumph coming in the 2013 Champions Trophy. K.R. DEEPAK

**Ashwin Achal**
BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

For a brief moment, it looked like India would trip over at the final hurdle once again. Could it be another case of 'so near yet so far'?

In the summit clash of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup here on Saturday, South Africa was in cruise mode.

The Proteas needed just 30 off 30 balls to win their maiden World crown.

The Indians, however, were unwilling to give in. Hardik Pandya rose to the occasion with the crucial wicket of Heinrich Klaasen, who was threatening to run away with the game.

Jasprit Bumrah choked the batters with a tight 18th over before Arshdeep Singh kept the batters on a leash in the penultimate over.

With 16 required off the final over, Suryakumar Yadav took a sensational catch at long-off to leave David Miller and South Africa stunned.

Hardik kept his cool to fashion a seven-run win. Emotions spilled over when the triumph was completed. Hardik couldn't hold back his tears nor could the Indian fans who thronged the Kensington Oval. At the other end of the emotional spectrum, the South Africans were shattered.

The skies opened up almost immediately after India's incredible victory. Under the showers, Rohit Sharma's men soaked with pride.

MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGE 14

## Aftermath of scam: Fiat to State-owned entities

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Following a multi-crore scam in the Valmiki ST Development Corporation, the government has issued a circular imposing directives for "accountability and prudent management of public funds" at State-owned companies, local bodies, universities and medical colleges.

Chief Secretary Rajneesh Goel issued a circular to managing directors or CEOs of such entities that they should take up reviews of banking operations and verify details of all term deposits. Every organisation should maintain a register for all deposits. The register, kept in safe custody, should be produced before the internal auditor every month.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 3

## CBI holds searches in Gujarat in NEET leak case; one more held

**The Hindu Bureau**
PATNA/DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday searched multiple locations in Gujarat as part of its probe into an alleged conspiracy to help 30 students in the recently held National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for undergraduate medical colleges at a Godhra examination centre. On Friday, the agency also arrested one more accused in the NEET question paper leak case in Jharkhand.

The searches were carried out in places linked to the accused persons and suspects in Godhra, Ahmedabad, Kheda, and Anand districts of Gujarat.

The accused arrested in the paper leak case on Friday evening was identified as Jamaluddin, a journalist working for a Hindi newspaper in Hazaribagh in Jharkhand. According to the agency, on the day of the examination, he assisted the Hazaribagh-based Oasis School principal Ahsanhul Haque and vice-principal Imtiaz Alam, who were earlier arrested in the case. On Saturday, the CBI took the three, along with two other accused people, Manish Prakash and Ashutosh Kumar for a medical check-up.

Mukesh Kumar, an accused in the case, leaves after his medical check-up in Patna. ANI

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6

## NEARBY

### Shivakumar warns leaders

**BENGALURU**
Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday warned that notices will be issued and disciplinary action taken against those leaders who publicly speak about the change of Chief Minister or creation of additional posts of Deputy Chief Minister.
» Page 4

### Long metro work riles residents

**BENGALURU**
Namma Metro's work continues to hinder daily life on Bannerghatta Road for residents, motorists, and pedestrians. The work on the 21.26 km Pink Line began in 2019. » Page 2

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES J2 & 2
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

# CM calls on Modi, seeks clearance for pending water projects

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Saturday and sought the Centre's clearance for three major pending water projects, including Mekedatu project which aims to provide drinking water to Bengaluru and surrounding residential areas from a dam that has been planned.

The Chief Minister, during his meeting with Mr. Modi, raised the issue of Upper Bhadra Project, which is pending with the Centre since 2020. It aims to irrigate 2.25 lakh hectares in central Karnataka districts.

A sum of ₹5,300 crore had been announced for this in the Central Budget for 2023-24, but so far no grant has been released. Mr. Siddaramaiah demanded the early release of funds for the project and urged the Centre to declare this scheme a national project.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his Cabinet colleagues with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The other major drinking project that needs the Centre's clearance is the Kalasa Banduri nala project, which was cleared by a tribunal in 2018. A detailed project report has been submitted by the State government. The project aims at providing water to the arid areas of Kittur Karnataka.

He congratulated Mr. Modi on becoming Prime Minister for the third term. "In the spirit of the principle of cooperative federalism that you have espoused, I would like put forth the aspirations of the people of Karnataka," the Chief Minister said.

**For Bengaluru**

The Chief Minister emphasised Bengaluru's investment needs and requested the Centre's intervention in supporting the city for its metro rail project, and the peripheral ring road project.

He sought funds from the Centre for construction of a 60-km urban tunnel roads at the cost of ₹30,000 crore for decongestion of the traffic in Bengaluru city. The cost of the tunnel per km has been estimated at ₹500 crore.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 3

# Uptick in dengue cases pushes up demand for platelets in city

**Afshan Yasmeen**
BENGALURU

Following an uptick in the number of dengue cases in Bengaluru, blood banks are seeing an increase in demand for platelets in Bengaluru. Although there is no shortage of this vital blood transfusion component as of now, the demand has gone up, said all the banks *The Hindu* spoke to.

Blood stored at a blood bank in Benglauru. FILE PHOTO

**There is, however, no shortage of this vital blood transfusion component as of now**

Most blood banks in Bengaluru are facing a demand of at least 30 random donor platelet (RDP) units a day, as against an average of around 20 a day otherwise. The requirement of single donor platelet (SDP) units – required for critical patients – has also gone up from two or three to seven or eight per day.

T.N. Ravi Kumar, Director of Red Cross Blood Bank Sub-Committee, said the demand for SDP is high in Red Cross Society's blood banks. "It has gone up from 30 a day till last month to over 45 now, a majority of which is for dengue patients. While we are able to meet the demand for RDP as we have fresh frozen plasma stock collected through organised blood donation camps, for SDP, we need to draw as and when there is a requirement," he said.

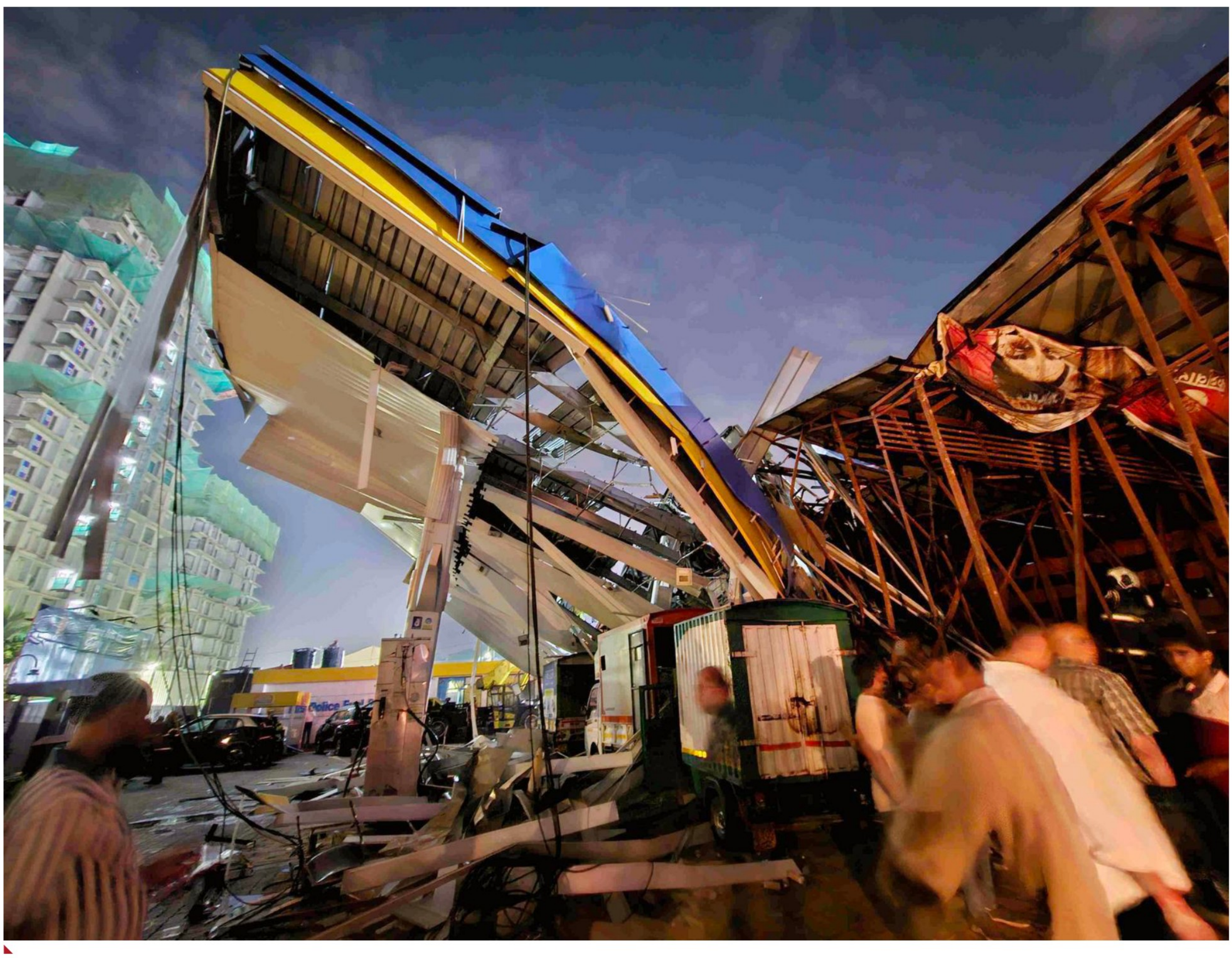
"As platelets have a maximum shelf life of five days, laboratories usually process the blood only when required. But, in the current situation, labs are processing blood as and when it is collected to reduce the wait time. Platelets have to be processed within six hours of drawing blood," he said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 3

**In action:** Rescue teams look for survivors at a stone quarry that collapsed following torrential rain brought by Cyclone Remal in Aizawl on May 28. REUTERS

**Flash flood:** The Old Courtallam falls in Tenkasi of Tamil Nadu saw a heavy overflow following rain on May 17. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Soaked to the skin:** Women hazard crossing a road in pouring rain in Salem, Tamil Nadu, on June 3. E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN



**Billboard tragedy:** A giant hoarding collapsed after a storm at Ghatkopar in Mumbai on May 13. It took away 17 lives and left at least 75 injured. Investigation revealed that the hoarding was erected on a weak foundation and had flouted standards. ANI

# In fear of freak weather

Extreme rainfall, unanticipated dust storms and unprecedented temperatures push cities and States across India into uncharted territory

Separated by 1,500-odd kilometres but equal victims of freak weather, Delhi and Mumbai were buffeted by dust storms, a summer phenomenon, in a span of three days in May.

Conditions were ideal for dust storms with the blazing hot weather in the northern plains and in areas around the coastal metropolis of Mumbai. Accompanying these storms were rain and even thundershowers. The Mumbai storm did a lot of damage, sending a huge unauthorised hoarding crashing on a fuel pump where many commuters were filling up. The death toll was 17, and more than 75 people were injured. The 250-tonne hoarding was erected on massive metal frames but failed to meet many standards, including the need for a solid foundation.

While the Mumbai incident was not just an act of nature, the recent incident in Delhi airport where a portion of the roof collapsed causing the death of one person after heavy rain in the city has brought about conversations on how many Indian towns and cities are under severe stress each time the monsoon comes calling.

June saw Delhi and Tamil Nadu recording the highest rainfall in a calendar month. Sudden rain in the Western Ghats triggered flash floods in the Old Courtallam waterfalls. A teenager who had come as part of a tourist group was washed away.

Floods and landslips in Sikkim led to disruptions in road connectivity. Indian Army engineers from Trishakti Corps constructed a 150-foot suspension bridge in northern Sikkim to reconnect the border villages that got marooned.

In Assam, over 5 lakh people were affected by floods. Three major rivers – the Kopili, Barak and Kushiyara – were flowing above the danger level. Relief camps were set up to help those internally displaced.

According to the India Meteorological Department, isolated heavy rainfall is expected in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan till July 3.

**Showers of blessings:** A family braves the deluge to offer prayers at the Aluva Shiva Temple in Kochi on June 27. PTI

# Classifieds

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# Matrimonial

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## BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

### COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

**IRELAND BASED** Tamil SW Engr, Google, 35, Resident permit holder seeks suitable grooms IT/Software willing to relocate. Caste no bar. arivssun@gmail.com.

### COSMOPOLITAN

**ATTRACTIVE, FAMILY–**ORIENTED, 28, 5'7", Manchester–educated, UAE–based, upper–middle–class Malayalee & Catholic. Seeking accomplished, open–minded, compatible groom. Religion & community no bar. Call 9345634365.

**NAIDU DIVORCEE** Issueless 48, MBA, ACS Working. Seeks unmarried Issueless Divorcee Groom, CNB–9360167989

### DIVORCEE

**58 YEARS** old divorcee, Christian, R N settled in U S A, seeks groom (US citizen or immigrant) age below 62, healthy, educated, understandable, who is more spiritual than religious. Religion and caste no bar. Contact : Ph + 1(404)213-9869, E-mail id : karivelila@bellsouth.net

**HINDU, SOFTWARE** Engineer (USA), divorcee (no issues), 42, seeking professionally qualified grooms, Tamil/ Kerala,working in USA-9895022376.

**SC 31YRS** Fair/ Dip in Nursing /Divorcee /One Daughter/Seeks Suitable Groom in Chennai/ CNB/ Ct:9600714682

### DOCTOR

**BEAUTIFUL SOUTH** Indian MBBS graduate sunni muslim girl aged 24 years seeking marriage proposals from suitable sunni muslim boys preferably doctors. contact 7448555970.

**BALIJA NAIDU** M.B.B.S Kettai, Viruchikam 26/165 fair good looking girl, Kanchipuram seeks Doctor (or) Professionally settled from Naidu families Contact: 9443380196, 9442202555

**HINDU YADAVA,** 28, MD (Pediatrics), Doctor, Madurai seeks Yadava PG Doctor Groom. Ct: 9843811171

**MD ANESTHESIOLOGY** Doctor, 1989 born 165cm fair, beautiful, cultured and homely. Settled in Chennai. Father Doctor Kerala Nair , Mother Tamil CSI. Doctor and Engineer grooms preferred. Ct: 9840050381/ 9840985383

**SAIVA PILLAI** Family, Fair, Age 26, 162cm, Govt Doctor, Seeks Groom (MBBS/MD/MS) Preferred; Chennai Age 27– 29 any Saiva Group. Ct: 9444682112

**GROOM WANTED** Rich Mudaliyar, 29yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite business family in Chennai Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

**VANNIAR, AFFLUENT** Family (Divorce) aged 33 years, Dr. MS (O&G) seeks same profession bridegroom, sub caste no bar. Call : 98941 34981

**VANNIYAR 25/**160 Fair BDS working Chennai seeks age 29–32 Groom 1st prefered Govt Doctor/Doctor 9962375456

**HINDU REDDY 33Y, 165cms Doctor MBBS, MS. Suitable Never Married Groom From Chennai CNB Call: 89256 40111**

**HINDU NADAR**
**Chennai, Only Daughter (24) Fair & Good Looking, MBBS, (MD) DVL, Rich Affluent, well-Educated family seeks suitable Good Looking Doctor Groom with clean habits from Hindu Nadar only.**
**Ct: 94447 59246 / 94449 68235**

### ENGLISH

**Good-Looking Sambavar Protestant Christian Malayali Girl, 26/160, M.Com, Mgr Pvt Sect Bank, Mumbai seeks Qualified Professionals from any Christian Denomination. CT: 99304 70030 (Brokers pls excuse)**

### GOVT / QUASI GOVT

**SC, AD,** Bank Employee, Age: 31, Triupathi. Seeks Bank Employee or Government Employee: Ct: 9000180420

### HINDI

**BRIDE GROOM**
**Well to do NORTH INDIAN BRAHMIN GIRL, B.Tech (CSE) Dec 1997/160cms residing in Tirupati, seeks a professional North Indian BRAHMIN GROOM preferably settled in South Indian States.**
**✆: 91 89198 90917**

### MALAYALAM

**EZHAVA Girl, 29, 154 cm, PhD, UGC NET with JRF in English Literature; Assistant Professor in a Prestigious Unaided College in Thiruvananthapuram, only Child of Wealthy and well-educated parents, invites suitable alliance. Contact: 9895891644; 9947328445.**

### PUNJABI

**PQSM 4** Smart, Fair, Good looking, Punjabi (Sikh Girl) Dec 94, 165 cm, PQ, Working in Hyd. Ph: 9849640921 Email: deepa.chadha4@gmail.com

### TAMIL

**MUSLIM GIRL** 37 Fair Slim BE(CSC), look for employed BE, MBA never married tamil muslim Groom. 9444235779

**CHRISTIAN NADAR Fair, B.Tech (NIT) , 28 years/165cm, Assistant Director (Group A), Central Govt. seeks suitable Groom. Ct : 9840274501 / raphha72@gmail.com**

**TAMIL MUSLIM** 27/168 MS Persuing seeks prof qualified groom Ct: 8220042091 mdullahsafi@gmail.com

**ROMAN CATHOLIC.** Tamil. 26yrs, 159cms, B.Arch. Employed at a Private Interior Design Firm in Chennai. Father is a Chartered Accountant, managing partner of Chennai based CA firm with 40 plus years of practice. Chartered Accountant groom with willingness to undertake practice preferred. Contact: 9600839917 (Father).

**ROMAN CATHOLIC,** Tamil, Sozhiya Vellalar. 30 years / 168 cms / B.Tech IT working at Freshworks, Chennai. Seeks suitable bridegroom of same community employed in Chennai. Parents: 9444170346 / 9840246328

**CSI CHRISTIAN** Girl 34 BE Working in MNC seeks BE/ME Christian Bride-Groom with Good Job.CT:9043019165

**SEEKING A** suitable, Highly Qualified, Handsome Groom from an affluant fair Cultured family for a Tamil Catholic very fair and beautiful Post Graduate Doctor-30/157cm, Contact : 9611793756.

**DKV/SC** 30/167 fair BE, TCS Chennai, Parents Hindu/CSI. Seeks Groom Dr/Er, Govt Employee. 8056143638

**CHRISTIAN AD** Girl 29Yrs/167cm MBBS MD., (Govt., CBE) good looking seeks Doctor / Any Govt (IAS/IPS/IFS) Groom.CT: 9578815447, 9442353301.

**RC F.DO,** born again 29yrs/ 177cm, M.A. M.Phil, B.Ed, looking for God fearing Groom. whatsapp 9841759723

**CASTE NO** Bar, 37yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite Business Family. Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9047192999

**GROOM WANTED** Rich Mudaliyar 25yrs BE Own schools & Colleges, Elite Business Chennai 9710093999/ 9710091999

**ADIDRAVIDAR 31/**FAIR, B.E,MBA (HR) Consultant MNC Chennai, Father ITS officer, Seeks groom– Business/ Eng/ Govt.office– 7708827265, 8939012419

**For Tamil** Hindu girl working in US,MS MBA. H1B visa. Contact: 9710905191.

**VANNIYAR AGE–26, Moolam / Dhanusu, B.Com, CA(Final), Working @ Bank, Sal.30K, Seeks Well Educated, Working Groom. Ct: 9962791097**

**AGAMUDI MUDALIAR** Elite Family 32/ 165 Mirugasim, Raghu in Lagnam PG (HR MNC) Seeks IIM/PG Groom. 9176780777

**MUDALIYAR BE,** MS (USA) 27/160cm, Uthirattathi, Meenam, Rahu Dosham seeks Groom from USA only. Caste No Bar. Ct: 99404 67269, 90941 11976

**SEEKING NEVER** married Tamil/Telugu Groom age(41–44) working in Chennai or US for Naidu Bride– SWE Contact: hemapriya.h@gmail.com/ 9962805093

**ELITE MUDALIYAR** 26yrs M.Arch Elite business family in Chennai Seeks Suitable Groom 9710093999/ 9710091999

**HINDU NADAR** 34Yrs/160cm M.Sc M.Phil Ashwini Central Govt Job at Bangalore 80K pm. CT: 94899-72544.

**TELUGU BALIJA** Naidu 27 Yrs / 155Cm Barani / Mesham Completed P.hd (zoo) Assistant Professor in Leading College in Chennai. Seeks Dr/ Er From Balija Naidu Only. Ct: 9486106465

**SC ADIDRAVIDA Divorced No Child Age38 BE EEE Wrg In Ch MNC. Settled Suit Groom With Broad mind 9940347310**

**ADIDRAVIDAR AGE** 29/155, BE, ME Pvt 70000/– pm. Fair, Well Settled, Wants Suitable groom. Ct: 9080344044

**09–01–**1986, FEMALE, BE (CS), Mukkulathor, working in USA (IT), unmarried, Moolam Star (Dhanusu), Expectation: CNB, unmarried, Same qualifications, Age: 38 – 41, USA (NRI) preferred. +91 9962024635

### TAMIL

**HINDU SC** AD pooradam B.Sc 38/150. Only daughter. First marriage. Father Rtd bsnl 9952953229 Chennai Pref.

**MUDALIAR PARENTS** seek professional groom settled in UK for their daughter age 32 height 172 cm Revathi studied medicine in UK and working as surgeon. Ph: 9884452926

**HINDU TAMIL** Yadava 28/165 / B.Tech /Revathi / MNC, Chennai / PA 10 Lac. Seeks software bridegroom from the same community. Ct: 9443536068, 9442992555

**EMPLOYED GROOM** Below 41 Yrs Required for a Hindu Nadar Divorcee 36 Yrs Getting Six Digit Pay. 9443156344

**TN HINDU** Nadar BC Girl, Aug'94 /167cms/63kg/Thiruvathirai/ME at MIT, Chennai, Now at IIT Kharagpur, West Bengal doing 1st year PhD seeking well settled Prof/Scientist, any BC groom in India. Ct. 96265 15511.

**CNB, 27YRS,** B.Tech, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9710093999/ 9710091999

**HINDU NADAR,** 30yrs, MBBS , MD, 167cms,Divorce, Rich and Affluent Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 8524891999

**ILLATHU PILLAIMAR** Hindu, 28/157 BE, MBA Chennai. Seeks Bridegroom with decent Family. Ct:9841712766

**33 YEARS** Patent Lawyer Parents Mudhaliar Naidu Intercaste. Coimbatore Grooms. Please Contact: iprbalu_lawyer@yahoo.co.in

**MUDALIAR, SWATHI,** 42/165, BE MBA, MBA(IIM) working in TCS 40 L PA, Preferred Professional qualified, Caste No Bar. suhamano@yahoo.com

**HINDU CA** Auditor 31/158cm Fair Legally Divorced Caste No Bar, Seeks suitable Groom WhatsApp 8667868854

**DOCTOR AGE:27** MBBS,MS 60k above. Very Fair&Well Settled. Seeks Doctor, BE any PG & business. Ct:9176737036

**THULUVA VELLALA** Mudaliar Girl 33/ 160cm Krithigai, P.G, Employee in IT Chennai, Seeks Groom Ct: 9445505491

**MUTHURAJA 26/** 163cm Aswini, M.S Biotech USA, fair and good looking Seeks groom settled/ working in USA. CNB 9962540226

**LOOKING FOR** a post–graduate & employed groom from small Tamil/ South Indian family for a Tamil Mudaliar girl employed in London, PG (Finance) 28 yrs /165 Cms. Want eco–friendly simple marriage and strictly no dowry. Write to dngblr@yahoo.in with details & photo.

**TAMIL VISHWAKARMA** Goldsmith girl, 26/154 cm, B.Sc, M.Sc, Working in Trichy ( Having Star – Ayilyam ) seeking below 31 yrs, well-educated, Tamil/Malayali, groom, Middle/Upper middle class family working in Govt/Public/MNC Sector, Contact : 97460 36999.

**HINDU MUDALIAR** 25 / 158 cm B.E., M.Sc., Data Science London, likely settle in Chennai Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact : 9600034326

**ASWINI MESAM** 29/161 MBBS, MD DNB Pulmonology, seeks Doctor, IPS, IAS. Mail: sendhu94@gmail.com 8148895304

**MUSLIM GIRL** 22/162cm BE(CSE) very fair selected in MNC Chennai well to do Fmly in Chennai. 9445556810

**ALLIANCE INVITED from Well qualified and well settled pleasant personality Brahmin Groom based in India / Abroad for Good looking Tamil Iyer Girl , Mumbai educated PG Doctor (O&M Surgeon) , Vadama , Srivatsa , Ashwini 30Y/165cm. Contact: Viswanathan 9841067515 & Anuradha 7738271943 / 9321214357**

**GROOM WANTED**
**Doctor, MD Pediatrician, Successful, Intelligent & beautiful girl, 34 years, 165 cm, working in a renowned multi-speciality hospital, seeking alliance from well educated and settled groom of any religion.**
**70944 81183**

**BRAHMIN**
**EXCLUSIVE**
**South India's Leading Business Family seeking a groom for their daughter completed studies in foreign country**
**GROOM PREFERENCE**
**Height : 178 cm & above**
**Born Before 1992**
**from an leading Brahmin family**
**megawedding2021@gmail.com**

**SAIVA Pillai** Girl 26/160 Ayilyam Fair B.Tech SWE MNC B'Lore,9367762226 senthilnathanb76@gmail.com. Cbe

### TAMIL

**HINDU, BALIJA/ Gavara Naidu, Doctor MBBS, MS, 27y, 159cm, fair, good looking, Seeks PG/ SS Doctor or professionally settled family in India/ abroad. Contact: 6385332283.**

**Groom required** for M A qualified Mudaliar girl 24/162,from good family, contact: 94990 15259.

**CSI Christian** Nadar 26yrs / 155cms. MA English, Media Consultant, Well off Family, Father is a Sr Officer, In Govt. Service, Looking for a Suitable Match from Same Community settled in Chennai or Abroad. Ct : 89399 99558.

**WANTED GROOM** with qualification Chartered Accountant or post graduate in Accounts and Finance, good looking and character and with clean habits for our daughter aged 27 years, height 158cms and weight 60kg, Vaniya Chettiar, beautiful and soft-spoken working in MNC in Chennai. Her hobbies are bharathanatyam, dance, tennis, violin and book-reading, We prefer groom from Hindu, tamil-speaking, non-vegetrarian, chettiar, mudaliar, pillai and vellalar only. Please send groom's horoscope and other details to What'sapp number 9444587465.

**IIM MBA** Bride working in Bangalore Mudaliar 34yrs, Seeks PG Executive Groom, CNB. Ct : 9843039750.

**SC AD** 36 BE, Sr. Software Engineer in TCS Chennai.18LPA. Never Married Seeks suitable Groom. C:99521 47216

## BRIDES WANTED

### BENGALI

**Hindu, Bengali** 33/6ft Phd, Assistant Proffesor IIT Kanpur seeks suitable well educated Bride. Caste no bar. Mobile: 8240619913

### BUSINESS

**AGE 37** Handsome, Settled Groom seeks Dignitary Family Bride& 1st Marriage, Remarriage, Divorce 9597834451

### COSMOPOLITAN

**DM–DOCTOR** (DEC 91, Tamil, fair, h'some, 185 cm, hastham) needs a virtuous, tall, fair, b'ful PG Doctor or non–medico bride below 30 years from Kongu Vellala, Kamma, Pillai, Nair or such milieu– Parents: 9342529547 / 9072118800.

**HINDU BOY** from a reputed family of Kerala 55 years UK Citizen Self Employed, previous marriage annulled looking for Bride( divorced also without any issues)with traditional values willing to settle abroad. Interested profiles with photograph send to email anil_raj@hotmail.co.uk or WhatsApp:+4478 46738646, +919446457939, +919074 872179.

### NRI

✔ **NAIDU 29/**180CM ,Pooratathi, Btech, MS, Working as Research Engr, PR of Sweden, Contact father 9566682220

### TAMIL

**PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN** Parents seek Born Again and God Fearing Bride for their Son, B.E, M.S (USA), 28/ 172, working in USA, H1B. Caste No Bar. Contact: 8122785230

**GOVT. COLLEGE** Professor, 39 Seeks Employed/ Unemployed Bride. 94426 95558

**CHRISTIAN NADAR,** Doctor, Divorcee 35yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

**WELL SETTLED TamilMuslim boy 25/ 170. BE,MBA. Only child. IT job. Seeks well settled TamilMuslim girl 20–23.WhatsApp +919790305981 ( reachus008@gmail.com )**

**CHRISTIAN DOCTOR,** 38/177, MBBS MD Paediatric Neonatologist, fair Divorcee seeks good looking Doctor/non medico Bride Age 30-35, Kerala/Tamilnadu. caste no bar, no kids. Ct:94433 26119/86100 20066

### TAMIL

**MUDALIAR/ PILLAI** 32 M.Tech (IIT), MBA(IIT),Punarpoosam,Short lived, innocent, unconsummated divorcee. Manager @ PSB Chennai.Seeks good looking Bride from decent family. 9830282090

**HINDU SOZHIAVELLALAR 28yrs, Fair, a data scientist with a Masters degree, working in a reputed MNC in Chennai, Seeks a well educated, working girl from a decent family. He is responsible and values education and family. Caste no bar 9789891685**

**GAVARA NAIDU,** 37/5.9', Sathayam, Kumbam, Midhunam, B.E., M.Tech., Ph.D, Associate Professor at Bhopal, Divorcee seeks educated Bride/ Divorcee with no issue. Ct: 9360654171

**HINDU NADAR** Age 34/ BE, MS, Vegetarian Australian Citizen. seeks well educated, Beautiful Bride Caste No Bar/ No Expectation Ct: 99629 37761

**HINDU KONGU** Vellala Gounder 37/183 Sadayam, B.Sc, MBA Job, Business 36L PA. Working Chennai Upper Middle Class. Suitable Girl any Degree, Any Caste in BC. Whatsapp: 9360323979

**ADIDRAVIDAR, AGE** 28 BE (CSE), PVT 80,000/– Well settled. Wants Suitable Bride. 08122289871/ 9444139323

**MUDALIAR 29,** BE, MBA, 178cm smart 18 lacs p.a,well settled family seeks bride CNB,8778514465/ 7200866346

**HINDU NADAR,** 25yrs, BE, Well do to family, Elite Family. Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9380791999

**BRIDE WANTED** Rich Mudaliyar 28yrs MS(US),Own Manufacturing Industries Elite family 9710093999/ 9710091999

✔ **PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR)**, DOB:24–01–92, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) Chennai, Annual Income: 25 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same or any other community. Ph: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

**DOCTOR, AGE:29** MBBS,MD, 1Lakh& Above (Govt) only son well Settled. Seeks Doctor,BE & Any PG. Ph:9087764577

**44YRS, FREELANCER,** unmarried boy seeks bride. Divorce, widow welcome. Location: Mumbai & Coimbatore. Email:naidu2002@gmail.com, 9443366363

**PILLAI 36** Central Govt officer Swati/ Tula looking bride CNB first/second marriage 8056033532

**HINDU SC,** AD, 35 years, 175cm, BCA, Entrepreneur ( LPG Distributor – Indian Oil Corporation), 17LPA, Bangalore, Father is a Doctor, Well–settled family. Caste No Bar. Ct: 7892143841 / 9008202775

**HINDU PILLAI** Mudhaliar 34yrs 180cm MCA IDFC First Bank Branch Manager Cbe. Ct: 9790596388 / 9994159877

**Pillai/ Mudaliar,** Poorattadhi 28/167cm B.Tech, MBA, HR. IT,10L PA Chennai seeks employed Girl. Ct: 94443 67697

**BE IIT** 6'2 Height Mudaliar 32yrs Tech Lead Top MNC in Hyderabad Sal 75 lacs seeks Bride 5 '4 Same or Allied Castes Tamil,Telugu. Ct: 7382620365

**Vanniya Kula** Kshatriya, 26 yrs, Tall, fair, Chennai based, highly educated boy with clean habits from an upper middle class well settled family. Looking for a suitable bride from a decent family background. Contact: sakurarise2024@gmail.com, WhatsApp 7200253135.

**PILLAI /** SOZHIYA VELLALAR Non-Veg 34/174 BE MIB(France) Fair Boy Punarpoosam Business Analyst MNC Chennai.Seeks apt Bride.95978 66978

**BRIDE WANTED** Mudaliyar, 27yrs, B.Tech, Elite Industrial Background Business Family 9710093999/ 9710091999

**HINDU NADAR,** 25yrs, 180cms, LLM, VIP Family. Seeks Suitable Bride. Contact: 9380791999

**NAIDU, AGE** – 35 , BE, Ms., (SG) only Son – well settled –seeks suitable Bride Contact : 9445716965

### TAMIL

**BRIDE WANTED**
**Alliance invited for Software Engineer 34y, 180cm, very fair, Handsome Boy, Working in USA, Affluent, Hindu (Parkavan). Only Hindu Religion Girl, Caste no Bar, Beautiful, UG/PG Working in USA or will to go there can contact**
**Parents Native Place- Coimbatore City Tamilnadu**
**96778 83627**

**INTER CASTE** 31yrs 186cm (Ht) B.Tech MBA, well of family, only son, looking for caste nobar bride from decent & educated family Ct 9940198599

**MUDALIAR (CNB)** 30/ Handsome, B.Tech, MS (USA), Amazon, SWE,California, USA,10Lakhs Pm,Elite family, Seeks bride USA/Canada/India– 9962530015

**MUDALIAR (CNB)**: 28/ 6feet Ht, B.Tech (NIT), MNC, Bangalore, 300000 PM, well settled family, seeks bride Eng/ Doctor – Ct: 8925019776

**AGE 46,** 2nd Marriage, Working in Hospital at Qatar.Suitable Bride who willing to come Qatar. Ct: +97433840227 / 9498328263

**ADVOCATE MSC** &BA BL. Banking &High Court seeking bride Fairlooking & Graduate only vegetarian. 9080374843.

**BRAHMIN IYER** 40 years Poorattadhi Bharadwajam, B.com., Dip. in Hotel Mgt. Working in Star Hotel, Chennai Seeks Bride 35– 38 years, prefer Divorcee W/o issues also Subsect no bar. Contact No: 9840215610

**WE ARE** a Tamil Hindu family, looking for an alliance for our son C. Dinesh, aged 30 yrs, residing in Chennai, working for a Bangalore based firm, height 5'8", M.S. graduate, Hindu, Iyer. The bride should hail from a decent educated family, same caste, 24–30 yrs old. Contact with astrological details: 7845419278/ 6385425992 / 9940164140 or email: chandru1053@gmail.com

**IYER NAITHRUPAKASHYAPA** Mrigasirisham 1982 born 6ft Manager never married seeks any Brahmin suitable bride 9444402146

**BRIDE WANTED** Elite Iyer, 36yrs, BE, well educated family, Need only vegetarian. Ct:9710093999/ 9710091999

**BRAHMIN BOY,** 36/170, BE, Manager, Pvt Co., Chennai, 14 LPA, Own House Seeks any Brahmin Girl. 7598084209.

**BRIDE WANTED**
**Wanted Hindu- Pillai Bride from a well educated, cultured, upper middle class background, for a Groom from affluent & business background 34yrs, MBA, 60L P.A, Own house in Chennai.**
**Contact: 8825884424**
**ggcbe500@gmail.com**

**BRIDE WANTED**
**Hindu affluent & Chennai Based NRI well settled Business Family Own Business in Overseas 32/178 Legally Divorced / No issues, seeks suitable Bride Caste No Bar**
**Ct: 96770 04283**

### TAMIL

**Vaaniyar Chetty-38** Visagam 176cm MS(Sweden) Working Sweden 60L PA (Swedish Citizen & OCI) Seeks BE/ MS/ MBA/ MCA/ CA/ PHD/ Prof. Bride CNB. Contact: 98404 29799

### TELUGU

**RICH NAIDU,** 34yrs, BE, MBA, Divorce, Elite Business Family.Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:9962791888/ 7094991999

**AFFLUENT KAMMA** 43 BE/MBA business with Public Sector handsome seeks good looking qualified bride. Sect nobar. 9444410207/ tvm1945@gmail.com

**KAMMA NAIDU** 33/180 B.Tech, MS(USA) H1B/I–140 well settled & educated family seeks qualified, good looking bride USA employed CNB. 9150268143

**NAIDU 1994** born 186 cm BE MBA. Pilot with Indigo seeks fair educated Bride. Ct: 95000 57987, 74284 47958

**NAIDU 28/**180 Fair, MBA,HR in US Based Chennai 9.5Lp.a seeks Educated Bride from Decent Family. 9003153493

**RICH NAIDU,** 27yrs, BE, Well Settled Family in Chennai,Seeks Suitable Bride Contact:9962791888/ 7094991999

**KAMMA NAIDU** 32y BE 185cm 7Lpa good looking (Simha/Magam) upper–middle class groom based in Chennai seeking educated bride who values family. Sub–caste may also contact. Please send profiles with photograph to kuppu.soundarrajan@gmail.com.

**BALIJA 29/**180 BE/ M.S (Ger) workingin Germany 51Lpa. Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 9442623203 / 9442838203

**TELUGU Brahmin** 1996/ Mulakanadu/ Kasyapa/ Revathi-2 B.E, MBA seeks Employed Girl Subsect no bar Contact: 91769 05224 / 98414 01224

**Wanted Suitable Dr/Er/MBA Bride below 39 age for Naidu 43.M.Tech, 168cm Elite family doing multi business in TS,AP & TN. Earning High income.**
**9445021512**
**8778796515**

**BALIJA Naidu** Ayilyam/ Kadagam 30/ 180cm B.E work at UK seeks Qualified Bride. Ct: 99403 16508/ 93817 33497

**NAIDU 29/182** Handsome, MBBS,MD, Reputed Hospital 1000000.PA, Afflunet Family,CNB.9043991629, 9043987029

**BALIJA-2nd marriage-** bride-groom-41y - pvt emp - salary 50k-tirupati - 7093722724

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**BRAHMIN IYER,** 27, 180 cms, BSBA. Lives in US, Businessman. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar caste. Contact:6366448343

**SAIVA MUDALIYAR,** 29, 182 cms, BE, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from any similar community. Contact: 6366448344

**SAIVA PILLAI,** 31, 165 cms, B.Com, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from any similar community. Contact: 6366448344

**24 MANAI TELUGU CHETTIAR,** 26, 183 cms, MS in Engg, Businessman. Lives in Pollachi. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated match from same caste. Contact: 6366448343

### ELITE GROOMS WANTED

**SAIVA PILLAI,** 27, 166 cms, BS, Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

**24 MANAI CHETTIAR,** 25, 170 cms, M.Sc, Research Analyst. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448344

**HINDU NADAR,** 25, 175 cms, Pursuing Masters. Lives in UK. Father is a Doctor and having own Hospital. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

**KAMMA NAIDU,** 31, 175 cms, MD in Internal Medicine, Resident Doctor, Washington DC USA. Father is an Industrialist with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match from Telugu/Tamil match working in USA. Contact: 6366448343

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### TAMIL

**HINDU Nadar** 32/160cm Star Revathi works in IT seeks alliance from IT Field Ct: 95149 52555 / 99444 10712

### TELUGU

**GROOM WANTED** Rich Naidu 30yrs B.Tech, MS(US), Working in US, Elite Business Chennai 9710093999/ 9710091999

**BALIJA NAIDU** - Upper Middle class family is looking for a suitable Bride-groom for their daughter working in the USA, 29 years, Wheatish, 5.1 ft, BE., MS.,(USA) and pursuing MBA in USA. Bridegroom must be well educated, working in USA and must be well settled from a decent family. CT: 9047010018 / 9787943250.

**HINDU GAVARA** Naidu, 31/170, SWE, USA, 10 LPA seeks suitable Groom from same caste/ sub caste. Ct: 8072397518 / 9487752230.

**NAIDU 27/**165 Fair Beautiful MBBS, MD–Doing Afflunet Family Immediate Marriage,CNB. 9043991629,9043987029

**TELUGU YADAVA ANY NAIDU SADHAYAM GIRL**
**Age 28, Height 166cm in Family Business**
**Seeks Educated Groom from a Affluent Family**
**9444373070, 9840993031**

**33yrs Girl** B.E M.S Working in USA, Divorced &no Kids,Seeks Telugu/Tamil groom must Work in USA 9444991859

**HINDU BALIJA** Divorced 32/155cms, MBA working in MNC seeks Naidu Groom Divorced / Unmarried below 38yrs Working. CNB Ct: 91766 59800

### URDU

**LOOKING FOR** a suitable Good looking Sunni Muslim boy for our daughter 27 yrs height 5.10 B.E.M.S. working in Ireland., Tall Boy with B E.MS from Chennai/ Bangalore working in Ireland/ UK.is preferred. For further information please mail to naseem.begum69@gmail.com

**MUSLIM GIRL** 22/162cm BE(CSE) very fair selected in MNC Chennai well to do Fmly in Chennai. 9445556810

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**REMARRIAGE 38,** BE,Builder Seeks Bride,RC Christian& Hindu.Caste No Bar/No Child, Widow&Divorce. 9840311225

### FINANCE / BANKING

**31 YEARS.** SBI. Currently in Foreign Assignment. Tamil Christian. Seeks financially independent intellectually inclined Tamil/ Malayali woman as life partner. Caste/ Religion No bar. Ctct: +968 78052213/ +91 9789227517 (Whatsapp only)

### HINDI

**1985/175CM,** 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

### KANNADA

**KANNADA VOKKALIGA** Gowda 33/171 Maham Tax Consultant and Advocate 15L/pa own house, Chennai seeks Vokkaliga sudha Jathakam bride. 8939658785

### MALAYALAM

**BRIDE WANTED** for 30–year–old Knanaya Catholic based in Noida working as Sr Content Growth Strategist. Mob: 8080224002

**RELIGION/ CASTE** - No Bar - Engineer (31/175) working at a reputed MNC in Bangalore seeking alliance from girls above 25 years - contact: 9786509095

**HINDU VELAN,** legally divorced boy aged 34 years Bcom, MBA, Pvt firm seeks marriage alliance from suitable girls. Caste no bar. Contact: 9074654641, 9447720954

**ARMY HAVILDAR** Clerk, Hindu Pillai / 27/ 174cm/ BBA/ Rohini/ Trivandrum, Caste no bar. Contact: 9495848462

**EZHAVA BOY** 29, BE MBA, Manager Chennai, Shudha, Chennai settled, Contact no: 94990 09783.

### MARATHI

**Alliance for** smartha desastha boy 35/BE.MS/173cm SWE, Calgary Canada, from qualified & employed South Indian brahmin girls preferred. Contact 9845830683 / 9480616626.

### TAMIL

**RC CHRISTIAN,** 41yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, working for mnc, Chennai, CT–9500188067

**NAIDU 32** B.Tech IT PGDM HR Chennai Seeks Naidu(Any) Working Bride Engg/ CA/ DR. Cell: 9444753417

**56 YRS, Divorced, no child, Own business, Spiritually Awakening, Affectionate Man need same minded suitable woman Only Direct Ct: 8508851019**

**AGE 55YRS** Divorce, Bank VRS, seek life partners/ bride bet 45 to 50. Caste/Religion No Bar. Ct 8939574245

**MUDALIAR 28/**175CM, B.Tech,MS working in Europe, Lithuania, seeks suitable Qualified Bride with IT or Finance. Ct 9444267104/ 9940074508

**MUDALIYAR, KETTAI/**VIRCHIGAM, 37, 171CM, BUSINESS 60K.p/m, seeks suitable bride. Ct:9884220959

**CHENNAI HINDU** SC AD 41 Unmarried Govt Banker seeks Suitable Bride Same Caste,Subsects Caste No Bar 9884030032/9710389812

**SEEKING ALLIANCE** for our Son 37/ 175cms, Good Looking, Doing own business (Trichy & Coimbatore) from an affluent family. Caste no bar. Prefers pet lovers. Contact: 9363336647

**SAIVAPILLAI SIMMAM/** 31/ 175/ BE, MBA/ Pvt Sector/ PA 24L/ Seeks Educated Employed Bride. Ct: 9444436363/ 8248950499

**DIVORCEE (MUDALIAR** & Naidu) 36Yrs, MBA,Business, Chennai,50 Lakhs PA, only son, Elite Family,Seeks bride– Any degree/ caste nobar– 9840912588

**VANIKA VYSHYA** Boy, Chess Grand Master, 26,168, Kettai, Superintendent with Railways, Chennai settled, doing MBA, Nagercoil based, 7010758913

**HINDU NADAR,** 38yrs, 167cms, BE, Divorce, Elite Business Family. Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9380791999

**HINDU AGE** 50 Good Facility Expectation Over 46 Very Comfortable For Un Married Faithful Life Partner. Contact: 82208 19962

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THE HINDU

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# Metro work on Bannerghatta Road inconveniences residents, motorists

Ever since work began in 2019, they have been facing problems such as traffic bottlenecks, noise, and potholes

**Dipti Wadhera**
**Ananya Bejoy**
BENGALURU

The poor condition of Bannerghatta Road is because of the ongoing metro work. K. MURALI KUMAR

Namma Metro's work continues to hinder daily life on Bannerghatta Road for residents, motorists, and pedestrians. The work on the 21.26 km Pink Line, which has 18 stations and connects Kalena Agrahara and Nagavara, began in 2019. Since then, those who have to traverse Bannerghatta Road have faced issues with regard to bad roads, traffic, noise, and civic infrastructure, including improper pavements and street lights.

"The stretch from Bilekahalli to Vega City Mall is riddled with potholes, making it difficult to navigate due to the poor road conditions. Every time it rains, the stretch gets flooded, and with repeated rains, the potholes become larger and more hazardous," said Nithin Murthy, a resident of Vijaya Bank Layout.

Meanwhile, BMRCL officials on the ground said as work is completed in each area, they have ensured that the stretch is repaired and the road is widened for smooth traffic flow. However, motorists complain of bad stretches of road, that are endangering motorists and only adding to the traffic mess.

Abdul Imtiaz, a resident of Arakere whose mobile shop is located at the Arakere signal, said, "The roads have become narrower, and the number of vehicles has increased.

Potholes have been seen everywhere. The metro work is delayed, which has been going on for four years now."

**Safety measures**

Motorists have also complained about the lack of safety measures during construction hours.

Satish Gowda, a resident of Jayanagar who frequently travels along Bannerghatta road, said, "The metro work is going well, but the safety measures are lax, with no red caution tape or rope being used to mark the metro construction site. The footpaths are neglected, and pedestrians walk along the road, adding to road congestion."

He also mentioned that streetlights in the area are sometimes faulty, given that they are solar-powered.

Another concern among motorists is the dust and noise pollution caused by the ongoing metro work.

Divya K, a resident of Gottigere, has to ride her scooty to work every day and complained of the amount of dust and noise she endured during her journey.

Residents of the area also mentioned how metro work, which mostly takes place at night, disturbs residents, especially senior citizens.

However, Prateek Shyam, a resident of Arekere, believes that the work is beneficial for everyone and said, "It will only lead to development. The merit of what comes later makes it alright for things to be a little difficult in the construction process."

# Fraudsters adopt new method to cheat people online

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

**Many have fallen prey to this tactic, despite it being only a slight modification of the courier scam. There have been multiple cases registered by victims who were cheated**

Cyber fraudsters have now devised a new *modus operandi* to cheat unsuspecting people: making phone calls in the guise of police officers and claiming that a relative has been arrested in a narcotics case and that the charges would be dropped if a bribe is paid.

Many have fallen prey to this tactic, despite it being only a slight modification of the now infamous courier scam, where they call and claim that a courier with narcotics in the person's name was intercepted by Customs officials at an airport and then demand money to drop the charges.

The North Division Cybercrime Police on Wednesday registered a case against an unidentified person who, posing as a police officer from Delhi, extorted ₹7,000 from a private firm employee after promising to drop drug case charges against his daughter.

Based on Srinivas Nageshwara Rao's complaint, the police charged the accused under Section 66C (identity theft) of the IT Act, 2000, for further investigation.

Mr. Rao said the accused called him on his mobile phone on Tuesday and introduced himself as a police officer from Delhi. He further said the police have arrested Rao's daughter for consuming drugs and are taking her to Delhi. He also offered to help him and drop the charges if he paid ₹15,000. Trusting him, Mr. Rao transferred ₹7,000 online, but later, he grew suspicious and called his daughter and found that she was in the college safe.

He is not alone. There have been multiple cases registered with the city police by victims who have been cheated. An 18-year-old student was robbed by a fraudster posing as a policeman who extorted ₹65,000 from her on Tuesday.

The accused called the girl, informing her that her father has been arrested in a drug peddling case and will be taken to Delhi for further investigation. The accused demanded money to release her father and drop all charges. The victim arranged the money and transferred it online, only later realised that she had been cheated.

On Wednesday, a software engineer from Kasavanahalli was cheated by a conman using a similar modus operandi. Based on Utkarsh Srivatsastav's complaint, the Bellandur police have taken up a case against an unknown person, charging him with impersonation and cheating. Mr. Srivastav, in his complaint, said that the caller, claiming to be a police officer, informed him that his son was involved in illegal activities and would be arrested. He demanded ₹40,000 to drop charges, following which the money was transferred online.

# Citizens voice concerns over accidents caused by lane-indiscipline on Bengaluru-Mysuru highway

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

**Cases are being registered due to heightened awareness, and there has been no surge in cases**

Accidents and lane violations are on the increase on the Bengaluru-Mysuru access-controlled highway. Citizens have been voicing their concerns on social media. One incident involved a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus driver going on the wrong side.

The police officials said several incidents of road accidents resulting from wrong-side driving, lane jumping, and speeding on the stretch had been reported. On June 22 morning, a KSRTC bus was seen going in the wrong lane. Shreyas Belur, a social media user, recorded this incident and highlighted the driver's reckless behaviour. KSRTC responded by confirming that an official complaint had been filed.

"The bus driver wanted to avoid the toll. We have issued a notice, and the driver will face disciplinary action," said R. Venugopal, Divisional Controller of the Bengaluru Central Division, KSRTC. The Bengaluru Central Division lodged an FIR regarding the incident. When questioned about the rise in the number of accidents, Additional Director General of Police (Training, Traffic & Road Safety) Alok Kumar said that cases were being registered thanks to heightened awareness, and there was no surge in cases.

He emphasised that police vigilance has instilled confidence in the public, encouraging them to record and report traffic violations.

"In fact, the number of deaths on these roads has significantly decreased. They have come down to single digits – three this month, as opposed to previous months that reported over 20 deaths each month," he said.

# Manak Manthan held

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru branch of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of India (under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt of India) on Friday organised Manak Manthan about the recently added Amendment-1 (Jan. 2024) of Indian Standard IS 10702:2023 - specification for Hawai Chappal, for comments from all stakeholders, laboratories, NGOs, and consumers.

Participants from various verticals, including footwear-manufacturing industries, laboratories, consumer societies, and media representatives took part in the programme. Vijayaveeran K., Director and Head, Bengaluru Branch Office, briefed about the programme objectives and shared valuable comments on the draft Indian Standard.

The chief guest, Dr. Adnan Shaikh, CEO and founder, of Physiobic Healthcare, discussed and clarified to the participants about the necessity of revision of the standards, and said that 20-25% of the Indian population has complaints of Plantar fasciitis and flat foot, which causes heel and knee pain. So, wearing proper footwear is important for the treatment of pain management, he added.

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EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. : WAT-TRD-83C-23-24 DT260624
Name of work with its location: HIRING OF 1 NO. ROAD VEHICLE i.e. TATA 207 DI EX OR EQUIVALENT FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE OF PSI DEPOT AT DILIMILI OF WALTAIR DIVISION FOR 36 MONTHS.
Value of Tender : ₹ 19,83,052.25, EMD: ₹ 39,700.00, Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 3,540.00, Completion period of the work: 36 Months from the date of Letter of Acceptance (LOA).
Tender closing date & time: At 1500 hrs. on 18.07.2024.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Waltair
PR-258/P/24-25

EAST COAST RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No. SNTPBBS-052024-IPEXCHANGE
Name of Work: REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING TDM EXCHANGE TO IP SERVER & MIGRATION TO SIP TRUNK ON ASTERISK SOFTWARE PLATFORM IN KHURDA ROAD (KUR), SAMBALPUR (SBP) & WALTAIR (WAT) DIVISION OVER EAST COAST RAILWAY.
Approximate Advertised Value: ₹ 15,86,83,861.00, EMD: ₹ 9,43,400.00, Period of Completion: 12 Months.
Date & time of tender closing: At 1100 hrs. on 25.07.2024.
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in
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2. Parcels: 02/07/2024, 05/07/2024, 08/07/2024, 12/07/2024 & 15/07/2024
3. Advertising & ATM Contracts on: 03/07/2024 & 04/07/2024
4. Parking & Pay and Use: 01/07/2024 & 18/07/2024
5. MISC: 05/07/2024 & 10/07/2024
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Tedner Notice No. Sr. DEE (RS&G) BSP/OTP/24-25-06. Date : 25/06/2024.
Name of Work: "Comprehensive maintenance of different type of Slit, Window Air-Conditioner, Refrigerator and Water Cooler of Elect. (RS&G) department over BSP Division (Excluding BSP settlement) for a period of Two years.
Tender Value (Approx.): ₹ 94,10,072.84/-. EMD: ₹1,88,200/-. Tender Closing Date : 17/07/2024, 15:00 Hrs.
For further details eligibility criteria & complete details for the above work, please refer/download tender document which is available on website www.ireps.gov.in.
Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer (RS&G) CPR/10/124 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur.
South East Central Railway @secrail

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Construction & Maintenance Division, LPSC CAMPUS
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Ph No: 080-25037136/080-25037214
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| | |
|---|---|
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| Tender Notice No | CMD/LPSC(B)/AC/MI/03/2024-25 date: 28.06.2024 |
| Estimated amount | ₹ 20.13 Lakhs |
| Period of completion | 2 Months |
| Sale Period | From 29.06.2024 to 08.07.2024 |
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| Total No. of Students enrolled | 178 |
| Total No. of Students not opted for Placements | 11 |
| Total No. of Students opted for Placements | 167 |
| Total No. of Students Placed | 158 |
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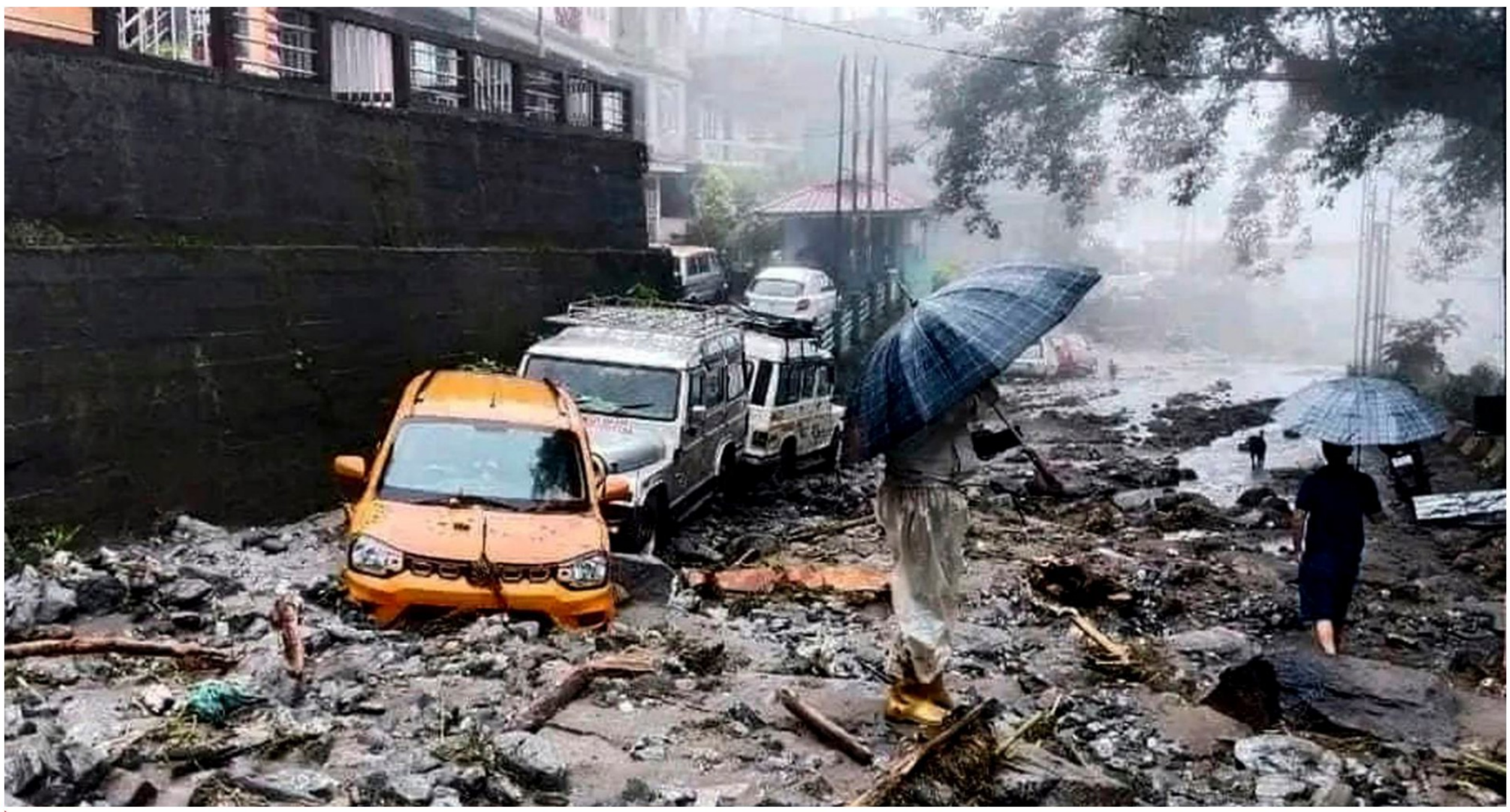
**Terminal mishap:** Restoration and relief work under way after the collapse of a canopy at Terminal 1 of Indira Gandhi International Airport after rain lashed New Delhi on June 28. One person was killed and five were injured. PTI



**Left stranded:** Vehicles stuck in mud and silt following landslips triggered by incessant rain in northern Sikkim on June 13. PTI

**On duty:** A mechanic repairs a two-wheeler under an umbrella held by his wife during rain in Chennai on June 25. AKHILA EASWARAN

**Monsoon magic:** While the rain can bring destruction, they also serve to showcase Nature in all its beauty. THULASI KAKKAT

# BBMP to regulate unlicensed commercial establishments

According to the data provided by BBMP, by the end of 2023-24, only 46,133 licences were issued across eight zones

**Jahnavi T. R.**
BENGALURU

Recently, residents of Indiranagar filed a Right to Information (RTI) query to find out the number of trade licences that were issued by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in the Hoysala Nagar ward for the year 2023-24. While the civic body replied that 378 licences were issued, residents allege that there are more than 300 non-licenced establishments in that ward alone.

"Around 90% of the licences are issued to establishments on arterial roads. But, in the bylanes, on roads which are not 40 feet in width, hundreds of commercial establishments exist," said Sneha Nandihal from *I Change Indiranagar*.

This discrepancy is not exclusive to one ward. According to the data provided by BBMP, by the end of the year 2023-24, only 46,133 licences were issued across eight zones. The number of licences went up by 3,226 between 2022-23 (when the total number of licences was 42,907) and 2023-24. The numbers went up slightly in 2024-25 as 3,736 new licences have been issued. Along with this, 32,924 licences were renewed taking the tally to 36,660.

BBMP is now mulling over relaxing the norms of licensing in a bid to regulate commercial establishments, with an eye on revenue generation. SUDHAKARA JAIN

**Licences renewed**

Even though the renewal numbers are expected to rise in the coming months, the numbers are grossly fewer compared to the trade establishments that operate in Bengaluru, according to citizens and officials.

"When I was the zonal commissioner of Rajarajeshwari Nagar zone, we had identified 3,000 establishments operating without a licence in one zone," said Surolkar Vikas Kishore, Special Commissioner, Health and Sanitisation, BBMP.

Many citizens claim that despite being aware of these illegal establishments, BBMP fails to act unless citizens complain about them.

Murali Govindarajulu, Whitefield ward committee member, said, "The BBMP neither issues any licences to these establishments nor acts against them. Instead of being proactive, they always wait for a complainant."

While the civic body mandates relinquishing some space in the front for buildings on arterial roads, it does not take custody of such space, resulting in petty businesses cropping up in such spaces. "The civic body can use such space for public parking or street hawkers," Mr. Govindarajulu said.

BBMP is now mulling over relaxing the norms of licencing in a bid to regulate commercial establishments, with an eye on revenue generation.

Mr. Kishore said, "While we continue to act against commercial establishments on roads that lack the necessary width to accommodate them, we want to provide licences to establishments operating on smaller roads. We can get revenue and regulate them at the same time."

**Perennial problem of parking**

The major problem stemming from unregulated establishments is parking. With no clause in the BBMP's trade licence application regarding the provision of parking space, commercial establishments, even those that have licences, end up renting out their basements (which are meant for parking) to smaller commercial businesses. Ms. Nandihal said, "We had submitted another RTI query asking how many trade licences were issued based on parking provisions specified in the Master Plan, but we are yet to get a reply even though it has been almost two months."

She added, "Despite a order by the High Court of Karnataka stating that residential sites cannot be used for commercial parking, many establishments continue to do so. Valet parking has become a huge problem for residents. The valet drivers park vehicles of their customers in front of our houses."

With substantial space on roads taken up for parking vehicles, congestion is a major problem on most main roads in the city.

Mr. Govindarajulu said, "During licence renewal, the BBMP should ensure that the basements sanctioned for parking are used only for parking and not for any other purpose."

Mr. Kishore said the BBMP is revamping its licence application process. "We want to bring in a format where applicants have to specify or commit to certain points in writing," he said.

## Five buses destroyed in fire

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Five buses belonging to a private nursing college were destroyed in a fire that broke out at a makeshift parking lot at Heggana-halli Cross on Saturday afternoon. The fire was noticed around 2.30 p.m. in one of the buses parked on a vacant site. It spread to four buses in no time. The management of the college had parked seven buses for repair at the vacant site where other vehicles were also parked.

Two fire tenders rushed to the spot and put out the fire before it could spread to the other vehicles. No one was injured. Rajagopal Nagar police, based on a complaint from the college management, initiated a probe to ascertain the cause of the fire.

## Minister seeks suggestions from MPs, MLAs on railway projects

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna held a meeting with elected representatives of Bengaluru on Saturday to discuss various railway-related development works in the city. MLAs and MPs attended the meeting, during which the Minister sought suggestions on railway projects.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Mr. Somanna said that the Ministry would consider revising the fares of premium trains like Vande Bharat to make them more accessible to the common people. "We want to make railways a mode of transport that all, including the poor, can use," he said.

The Minister also announced that Karnataka would see significant railway development works in the next two years. He added that Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw would review the Bengaluru suburban rail project next month to expedite its progress.

Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, who attended the meeting, told *The Hindu* that he had submitted suggestions regarding land acquisition by railways. "The coordination between the railways and State government needs to improve, as there are many railway projects where state government funds are involved, and importantly, land acquisition issues need to be sorted out to complete works soon," he added.

## DGP Kamal Pant to retire today

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Senior police officer Kamal Pant, Director-General of Police, Fire and Emergency Services, will retire on Sunday, after serving for 29 years as an IPS officer. He was given a farewell parade on Saturday.

The State government promoted the senior-most Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Pronab Mohanty, to the rank of Director-General of Police to fill the one DGP post that fell vacant with Mr. Pant's retirement. The two posts he held as chief of the Police Computer Wing and head of the Cybercrime and Narcotics division in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) have been upgraded to be held by an officer of the rank of DGP. Malini Krishnamurthy, DGP, Prisons and Correctional Services, has been given concurrent charge of Fire and Emergency Services, the post that has become vacant due to Mr. Pant's retirement. Mr. Pant, a 1990 batch IPS officer from Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, and an M.Sc. (Applied Geology) graduate from Delhi University, held several key posts, including that of Bengaluru city's police commissioner.

## Crackdown on outlets selling shawarma

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

After banning the use of artificial colours in gobi manchurian and kebabs, the Food Safety and Quality Department in Karnataka has now cracked down on hotels and restaurants that sell shawarma (meat roll) in the State.

Following complaints by people from across the State about food poisoning after consuming shawarma, officials from the Food Safety Department collected 17 samples of the meat rolls (shawarma) from 10 districts, including hotels in BBMP, Bengaluru Urban districts, Tumkuru, Mysuru, Hubbali, Mangaluru and Ballari.

After an analysis, the officials found that only nine of the 17 samples were safe for human consumption. The rest had traces of yeast and bacteria that could have grown due to the unhygienic conditions, especially lack of cleanliness during preparation and prolonged storage of the meat," said an official order.

"Consumption of shawarma rolls in which there is growth of yeast and bacteria can pose serious health risks to people. Based on the lab reports, we have initiated action under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products, Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, against the hotels and restaurants where the dish was found to be prepared in unhygienic conditions," stated the Order issued by Food Safety Commissioner Srinivas K.

"Considering the health and safety of citizens, we have cautioned all restaurants and hotels and advised them to prepare the rolls with fresh meat on a daily basis and register their establishments under the FSSAI Act and obtain licenses. People have also been advised to buy shawarma only from hotels that have the FSSAI licence," the Order added.

The department is also considering imposing restrictions on the use of artificial colouring agents in panipuri sauces.

**Timings**
**BENGALURU**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **SUNDAY, JUN. 30** | | |
| RISE | 05:57 | SET 18:50 |
| RISE | 00:52 | SET 13:36 |
| **MONDAY, JUL. 01** | | |
| RISE | 05:57 | SET 18:50 |
| RISE | 01:36 | SET 14:32 |
| **TUESDAY, JUL. 02** | | |
| RISE | 05:58 | SET 18:50 |
| RISE | 02:22 | SET 15:32 |

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 32 | 25 |
| Mysuru | 29 | 22 |
| Bengaluru | 30 | 21 |

**Bengaluru Today**
**30°C** The weather will be slight warm with cloudy sky. Short spell of light rain or thundershower with gusty winds is a chance at few places.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
**29°C** A mostly dry weather conditions to prevail. Day will remain slight warm with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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## Nodal officers to ensure effective BMW management

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Nodal officers should ensure that biomedical waste from central waste collection storage shall be directly transported to the common biomedical waste treatment facility. FILE PHOTO

For effective management of biomedical waste (BMW) generated in the State-run hospitals, the Health Department has nominated Family Welfare Officers in charge of districts and Taluk Health Officers in all 31 districts as nodal officers.

These nodal officers have been entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that all legal requirements related to the management of biomedical waste are compiled by the healthcare facilities and are regularly updated.

According to a recent notification issued by State Health Commissioner Randeep D., the nodal officers should ensure that annual reports and accident reports are submitted to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) in a timely manner by the facilities. The nodal officers should ensure that biomedical waste is handled without any adverse effect on human health and the environment adhering to BMW Management Rules 2016 and its amendments. They should instruct the health facilities to make a provision within the premises for a safe, ventilated, and secured location for the storage of segregated biomedical waste. They should also ensure that there is no secondary handling, pilferage of recyclables or inadvertent scattering or spillage of the biomedical waste by animals, the notification stated. The nodal officers should ensure that biomedical waste from central waste collection storage or premises shall be directly transported to the common biomedical waste treatment facility for the appropriate treatment and disposal as per rules.

"They should ensure pretreatment of all the laboratory waste, microbiological waste, blood samples and blood bags before handing over to the common biomedical waste treatment facility.

**Waste generated**

According to data from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), overall, Karnataka has 48,431 healthcare establishments, of which 8,628 are bedded hospitals, half of which are in Bengaluru. A total of 63,972 kg of biomedical waste is generated every day by bedded hospitals and 13,976 kg per day by non-bedded hospitals in the State. A total of 25 common BMW treatment facilities are in operation in the State, of which three are in Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts, according to data.

## From Page One

### Uptick in dengue cases pushes up demand for platelets in city

Narasimhaswamy L., Medical Officer at Rotary Bangalore TTK Blood Centre, said although the demand for platelets has increased, there is no shortage of the vital blood transfusion component now as voluntary donations through camps that were not happening in the last three months (due to elections and summer vacation) have resumed. "The demand for platelets has gone up by nearly 30% in our Blood Centre," he said.

Other blood banks are also facing a similar situation. Abdul Rehman Shariff, Managing Trustee of Jeevaraksha Blood Centre, said the demand for platelets has gone up considerably in the last two weeks. Manoj Kumar, Managing Trustee of Lions Blood Bank at Vijayanagar, said despite the rise in demand, the situation is manageable as of now.

Shivram C., Consultant in Transfusion Medicine at Manipal Hospitals (Old Airport Road), who has noted a 25% increase in platelet use in the last two weeks, said as per guidelines, platelet transfusion is required only when the patient's count goes below 10,000 per microlitre, or if the patient has bleeding through the mucous membranes such as mouth, nose and through urine and motion.

"Compared to the situation ten years ago, doctors are judicious in the use of platelets now. There is no need to panic, as a patient can recover without transfusion even if the count drops up to 10,000 with proper management and monitoring in the hospital," he asserted.

Asserting that both RDP and SDP are the same qualitatively, Dr Shivram said, "What is most important for dengue patients is adequate hydration rather than getting worried about a drop in platelet count."

### CM calls on Modi, seeks clearance for pending water projects

This project, which would connect NH 7 and and NH 4 and ease traffic congestion in Bengaluru, could be taken up by both the Centre and Karnataka, said Mr. Siddaramaiah, urging Mr Modi to provide funds through the NHAI in the Budget.

Mr. Siddaramaiah termed as "unfair" to Karnataka the 15th Finance Commission report and said: "We lost our share in the devolution of taxes to the extent of 1%, which has resulted in a loss of ₹1,80,000 crore over the period of five years. At least the Centre could consider honouring the recommendation of the commission for State-specific grants of ₹11,495 crore," the Chief Minister said. The State has also urged the Centre to clear the pending proposal to set up an All-India Institute of Medical Sciences in Raichur.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Home Minister G. Parameshwara, and Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa too were with Mr. Siddaramaiah when he met Mr. Modi.

**CM meets Rahul**

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister also called on Rahul Gandhi and congratulated him on becoming the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

### Scam aftermath: Fiat to State-owned entitiess

Noting that government-run organisations should have a "robust risk management framework", it said all term deposits should be invested in joint accounts. Heads of the administrative departments (secretaries) should ensure compliance.

The circular said directors nominated by the government to State-run companies should ensure that board meetings were held at least once in a quarter. Also, nominated directors have to ensure that audit committees are constituted and regular meetings are held.

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# DKS warns of action against party leaders seeking change of CM

Discipline is paramount for the party, he says. In response to the warning, Rajanna says, 'If at all, everyone should keep quiet, not just me. I alone cannot be asked to shut up'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday warned that notices would be issued and disciplinary action taken against those party leaders who publicly speak about the change of the Chief Minister or creation of additional posts of Deputy Chief Minister.

Speaking to reporters at his residence, Mr. Shivakumar, who is also Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president, said, "Anyone issuing public statements on the change of Chief Minister or Deputy Chief Minister will face disciplinary action from the AICC and the KPCC. Discipline is paramount for the party. We have worked hard to bring the party to power, no one should shoot their mouth off on this issue."

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar addressing the media in front of his house in Bengaluru on Saturday.

> Anyone issuing public statements on the change of Chief Minister or Deputy Chief Minister will face disciplinary action from the AICC and the KPCC
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR,** Deputy CM and KPCC president

**'Work for party'**

Soon after returning from Delhi, Mr. Shivakumar said, "AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and I held a meeting in Delhi and decided that everyone has to work for the party. Ministers, MLAs, and swamijis should not speak about party matters."

This statement comes in the backdrop of Vishwa Vokkaligara Mahasamsthana Mutt seer Chandrashekhara Swami publicly asking Mr. Siddaramaiah to give up his post to Mr. Shivakumar, during Kempe Gowda Jayanti celebrations recently. Prior to this, a few Ministers, particularly K.N. Rajanna, had been demanding the creation of additional posts of Deputy Chief Minister to give representation to other communities, in a move to undermine Mr. Shivakumar, who is currently the only one in the post and belongs to the Vokkaliga community.

On Saturday, when asked if there was a discussion with the high command on the issue of the change of Chief Minister or creation of more Deputy Chief Minister posts, Mr. Shivakumar said, "There were no discussions with the high command on the matter. The high command will evaluate my performance and take a suitable decision. Let's put an end to these speculations."

Asked about some party men seeking the creation of more posts, he said, "I don't know about that. It would be better if everyone zips their mouth." On swamijis interfering in politics, Mr. Shivakumar said, "Swamijis usually don't interfere, this is the first time he has spoken. My sincere request to all the swamijis is to leave politics for politicians."

Asked about a purported discussion between the Chief Minister and the Home Minister that the swamiji's statement was "planned", the KPCC chief said he does not know about any such conversation.

**'I will respond'**

Meanwhile, an unrepentant Mr. Rajanna, when asked about Mr. Shivakumar's warning, said, "Let a notice be served, then I will respond.... If at all, everyone should keep quiet, not just me. I alone cannot be asked to shut up." He went on to ask how anyone can be expected to keep quiet when the issue of change of Chief Minister was being discussed.

Senior leader and MLC B.K. Hariprasad told reporters that the demand for more Deputy Chief Ministers was largely following the less-than-expected results for the Congress in the parliamentary polls. "Both Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar have failed to win a majority of the Lok Sabha seats in the State," the MLC argued.

**Meeting with FM**

On the meetings in Delhi, Mr. Shivakumar said, "We had a meeting with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman along with all the MPs from Karnataka. In the two-hour-long meeting, we discussed the progress of the State, pending projects in the State, and justice in devolution of taxes for the State."

The delegation also called on Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and discussed bottlenecks for various national highway projects in the State.

# HC gives liberty to man to prosecute wife for making false charge of offences

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a rare instance, the High Court of Karnataka has given liberty to a 35-year-old man to initiate proceedings against his wife for malicious prosecution or proceedings under Section 211 of the Indian Penal Code for making the false charge of offences, including the offence of dowry harassment, against him.

The court said the husband can initiate proceedings against the wife, if he so desires.

"The complainant-wife, in gross misuse and abuse of law, has set the criminal law into motion. Such frivolous cases registered by the wife have taken enormous judicial time..." the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing the petition filed by the husband against the chargesheet filed against him by the Bengaluru city police in 2022 and quashing the criminal case against him.

**Suspicious of STDs**

The 32-year-old wife, apart from alleging that the husband had made a demand for dowry and harassed her, had alleged that she could not consummate the marriage as he avoided having a sexual relationship with her during his 40-day stay with her after the marriage as he was allegedly having several health issues. She had alleged that he was having some infection and suspected the infection to be sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). She had also complained that her husband did not take her to the U.S. despite she being granted a visa, though with a delay.

However, the court, from the records, found that the "documents speak otherwise" and "it is misuse and abuse of criminal justice system by the complainant-wife right from the word go".

**Medical tests**

The court found she had forced him to undergo multiple medical tests for Hepatitis B surface antigen, and STDs, including tests for HIV and syphilis. The results of the tests, conducted at Victoria Hospital, were found to be negative.

She continued to claim that he might have HPV (human papillomavirus) disease. The court noted that the husband had undergone a test at Columbus in the U.S. where it was certified that "he had no physical signs of HPV or other infections on his body as there is no test available for testing HPV in males".

Also, the court found that he had got her four appointments for the visa since his marriage but she did not attend interviews and finally secured a visa during the fifth time but did not go to the U.S., claiming that he was not communicating with her despite her messages and email to join him. The court also noted that the mother and the brother of the wife, in their statement given to the police, had denied any demand and harassment for dowry.

**'No ingredient'**

The allegations are "clearly a bogey projected by the wife as documents speak otherwise", the court said while stating that "it is not a case where there is an iota of ingredient" against the husband.

The couple had married in May 2020 and all efforts of conciliation failed between the two, as the wife demanded ₹3 crore in lieu of settlement, saying that the husband earns more than ₹2 crore annually.

# Sheds sought on HMT campus for tech innovation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for IT Priyank Kharge called on Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy in Delhi on Saturday and discussed the need to allocate additional sheds on the HMT campus at Jalahalli in Bengaluru to develop more Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in tech and innovation in the State.

He emphasised the important role the CoEs play in positioning Karnataka as a global leader in various high-tech domains, thereby driving economic growth, and creating numerous opportunities for the workforce in the State. Mr. Kharge pointed out that one industrial shed on the HMT campus was leased out to the Centre of Excellence-ART-PARK which had been established in collaboration with the prestigious Indian Institute of Science.

He requested Mr. Kumaraswamy to lease out two vacant sheds on the HMT campus to the Department of Electronics, IT/BT in a long-term manner, according to a release.

# 'Goal is to improve GER for higher education from 28.3% to 50% by 2035'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Of the nearly 25 crore students who enrol for school education every year in the country, only 28.3% enrol for higher education and this is a cause for serious concern, said T.G. Sitharam, Chairman of the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

He delivered the third convocation address of the Bengaluru City University (BCU) here on Saturday.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot conferring an honorary doctorate on former Indian cricket captain G.R. Vishwanath during the Bengaluru City University convocation on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

**Increasing GER**

"Any developed country has to have a gross enrolment ratio (GER) of over 85% for higher education, but it is very low in our country. This is the challenge. The Union government now aims to improve the GER in higher education to 50% by 2035," he said.

To increase the GER, Prof. Sitharam stressed the need to increase the number of universities and colleges in the country. "With 1,100 universities and 45,000 colleges across the country, we are able to serve only 4.3 crore postgraduate students. If 25 crore students, who enrol for school education, have to go for higher education, we need to double this educational network and infrastructure. To reach the goal of 50% GER in the next 10 years, we need a large number of universities. We also need to leverage digital technology to reach out to students," he explained.

"'Artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies are indeed transforming various aspects of our lives. While these advancements offer incredible potential, they also raise concerns about their impact on jobs, decision-making, and society. As machines and Al systems become more sophisticated, there's uncertainty about job security in certain sectors. However, rather than fear these changes, we should embrace them and adapt to new methods of sustainability and growth," he told the students. Prof. Sitharam also spoke about the need for interdisciplinary courses.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar, and Vice-Chancellor of the university Lingaraja Gandhi were among those present. A total of 35,912 students were awarded various degrees. Of them, 20,258 were female and 15,654 male candidates. Of the top nine ranks, eight were bagged by girls.

**Honorary doctorates**

The university conferred honorary doctorates on former Indian cricket captain G.R. Vishwanath and educationist M.R. Jayaram for achievement in their respective fields.

**TAMIL NADU CONSUMERS CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION LTD.**
No.29/2 Arcot Road, Saligramam,Chennai - 600093
**TENDER CORRIGENDUM**
Rc.No.182/2024/CMBFS Date: 30.06.2024
**Short e-tender No.TNCCF/ET/2024-2025/01 Date: 24.06.2024**
Tender notice for the supplies to Chief Minister Breakfast Scheme was published in **The Hindu** on 23.06.2024. The last date and time of submission of tender document shall be read as **09.07.2024 upto 10.30 A.M.** instead of 06.07.2024, 10.30 A.M. Interested parties in this tender shall login the tender portal for viewing the **Corrigendum.**
DIPR/2142/TENDER/2024 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

SAMAGRA SHIKSHNA ABHIYAAN
**OFFICE OF THE DDPI & EX-OFFICIO, DISTRICT PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR**
SSK,#1-9-74 MAVINA KERE ROAD,
AZAD NAGAR, RAICHUR-584101
NO.A2/SSKR/KGBV TYPE-1 & TYPE-4 HAPU TENDER PRA/2024-25 DATE:26.06.2024
**TENDER NOTICE**
This is to bring notice to the public that for the year 2024-25 tenders has been invited for supply of prepared food for (Preparation at the site and supply) 06 KGBV type-1 residential schools and 05 KGBV Type-4 hostels separately through short term tender. Interested Bidders can be participated in the tenders through online portal http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Availability of tender applications in online from 28/06/2024 and last date for applying the tender is 12/07/2024.
**Amount put to tender:** 1) 06 KGBV Type-1 Residential schools is Rs.1,22,40,000/- 2) 05 KGBV Type-4 Residential Hostels is 1,02,00,000/-
**Sd/- DDPI & EX-OFFICIO, DISTRICT PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR SAMAGRA SHIKSHA KARNATAKA-RAICHUR**
DIP/RCR/58/KSMCA/57/2024-25

**UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD**
Office of the Registrar, Krishinagar, Dharwad-5
Phone : 0836-2214319, Direct: 0836-2747958
E-mail : registrar@uasd.in
No: R/Rectt/Advt.63/2024 Date: 29-06-2024
**SHORT NOTIFICATION**
**Sub :** Recruitment to the backlog posts of Teachers in the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad.
**Ref :** University Notification No.R/Rectt/Advt.63/2024 dated 29.06.2024.
The backlog posts of Teachers in the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad are advertised for recruitment, vide University Notification referred above. The said notification along with all necessary information is accessible in the University's official website **(www.uasd.edu)**. Interested candidates may refer the University website for further details.
**Sd/- Registrar**
DIPR/Dharwad/112/Adverto/2024-25

**KARNATAKA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT LIMITED**
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Grameenabhivruddhi Bhavana, 4th & 5th Floor, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru-09.
No.: KRIDL/ADM/OUTSOURCE/TND/2024-25 Date: 27.06.2024
**TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR PROVIDING MANPOWER SERVICES**
**(Through Government of Karnataka e-procurement portal only)**
e-Tender is invited in two cover system from interested Bidders/Service providers who have adequate manpower resources and experience for supply of Manpower Services to KRIDL, on outsourced basis for a period of **02 year.** The details are as below:

| Sl. No. | Tender Notification No. | Particulars | Amount put to Tender per year | EMD Amount put to Tender |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | No. KRIDL/ADM/ OUTSOURCE/TND/2024-25, Dt. 27th June, 2024 | Providing Manpower Service to the various offices under of KRIDL | Rs. 45.00 Crores (approx.) | Rs. 45.00 Lakhs |

For more details regarding each Tender Notification please visit e-procurement portal **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Pre-Bid Meeting arranged **on 22.07.2024 at 11.00 AM** at the 4th Floor of the above address. Last date for submission of bids is **29.07.2024 up to 5.00 PM.** More details can be had from the Chief Administrative Officer, KRIDL, Hqrs., Contact Landline: 080-28015607.
**Sd/- Chief Engineer (Bengaluru), KRIDL.**

**KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD, KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI**
**Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,**
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105.
Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com
1). No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/WS/KUDATHINI-14&15FINANCE/2024-25/348 Date: 28-06-2024
**-: NOTICE INVITING TENDER :-**
1) Name and description of work: Construction of 5.00 LL Capacity OHT on 15 Mtr Staging At Ward No-19 At Kurugodu Bus Stop in Kudathini town under 14th & 15th Finance town Panchayath Kudathini (Lumpsum)-No Variation (Work Indent No : **KUWSDB/2024-25 / WS / WORK_INDENT225)**, 2) Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakh) (Including GST): **117.77,** 3) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount (Rs.in Lakhs): 2.00, 4) Eligibility of Contractor : Eligible Contractors, 5) Period of completion including monsoon in months: 09 Months (Eighteen), 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal: **01-07-2024 after 12:30 Hours**, 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting : **08-07-2024 at 11:30 Hours**, 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **15-07-2024 Up to 17:30 Hours**, 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : **18-07-2024 After 11:00 Hours** 10) Addl. information: Chief Engineer Office, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105.Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 11) Address of E-portail : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
**Sd/- Chief Engineer**
DIPR/Kalaburagi/146/KSMC&A/2024-25 **KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi**

**DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE**
**Directorate of Minorities**
**No.16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan, Miller Tank Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.**
Website: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**
**Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi**
**ANNOUNCEMENT OF INCENTIVE FOR STUDENTS STUDYING AT IIT, IIIT, NIT, IIM, IISER, AIIMS,NLU, INI & IUSLA, Etc FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25**
**Online Application**
Online applications are invited from the students of minority community of the Karnataka State who are studying in theprestigious institutions such as IIT, IIIT, NIT, IIM,IISER,AIIMS, NLU,INI & IUSLA etc which have got statutory permission from the government,to avail the one-time incentive for the entire duration of the course.
**Time Line**
**Last date for submission of online application: 31.08.2024**
**Eligibility**
- The student must be resident of Karnataka.
- Students who belong to minority communities - (Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi) may apply.
- Nature of course - full time.
- Students must have cleared the previous year examinations without any backlogs.
- Student's annual family income should not exceed Rs.8.00 lakhs.

**Instructions for applicants**
- Applicants are advised to apply online for incentive through this link: https://sevasindhu.karnataka.gov.in/Sevasindhu/DepartmentServices
- It is mandatory for the student to do aadhaar link and aadhaar seeding to the bank account.
- **For further detailed instructions, eligibility criteria, and procedure please visit Directorate of Minorities official website: https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the nearest District/Taluk Minorities Information Centre (MICs).

Date: 29.06.2024
Place: Bengaluru
**Sd/- Director Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru**
DIPR/CP/672/2024-25

## Prajwal remanded in judicial custody

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

After his police custody in the fourth case ended on Saturday, Prajwal Revanna, former MP, was produced by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) before the 42th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court, which remanded him in judicial custody.

The SIT officials did not seek his further custody and escorted him to the Bengaluru Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara and handed him over to prison officials.

**Evidence recovered**

The SIT, which is probing four cases including rape and sexual harassment, made a submission before the court that they have recovered all the evidence, including digital and call record details, pertaining to the case.

Mr. Prajwal Revanna was arrested in the early hours of May 31 after he landed at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru from Germany's Munich.

**Plea**

Meanwhile, Mr. Prajwal Revanna's counsel submitted that the former MP needed to be shifted to a private hospital in view of his illness.

However, the court instructed him to submit a plea in this regard to jail authorities and the matter would be taken up in the next hearing after the consent was obtained.

# No ED notice yet arraigning CPI(M) as accused in bank scam: Govindan

The party's Kerala State secretary addresses Enforcement Directorate accusations, political attacks, and says the outfit is resilient enough to weather Centre's 'intimidation'; he says the party has legal and political clarity in the Karuvannur case

**The Hindu Bureau**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Communist Party of India (Marxist) Kerala secretary M.V. Govindan said in New Delhi that he was yet to receive any notice from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) about the agency's purported move to arraign the political outfit as an accused in the Karuvannur Service Cooperative Bank loan scam.

Mr. Govindan said anti-Left forces and the right-wing media attempted to lay down a smokescreen of lies to put the CPI(M) on the defence. He said the Central government ruthlessly used the ED to silence dissent. The CPI(M) was the latest victim of the Bharatiya Janata Party's political witch-hunt using Central enforcement agencies.

However, Mr. Govindan said the Central government would fail in its bid to intimidate the CPI(M) into silence. He said the party had legal and political clarity in the Karuvannur case. Mr. Govindan said the CPI (M) would emerge unblemished and stronger.

He slammed the ED for acting as a law unto itself. The agency's actions were capricious, arbitrary, and devoid of any legal substance, Mr. Govindan said adding that the ED's intention was propaganda, not

M.V. Govindan

prosecution.

Party's Thrissur district committee secretary M.M. Varghese said he was unaware of the ED's move to name the party as an accused in the case. "I cannot take questions on developments still in the realm of fiction," he added.

The CPI(M) seemed wary that the ED had earlier arraigned the Aam Aadmi Party as an accused in the Delhi liquor policy case.

**Under agency's scanner**

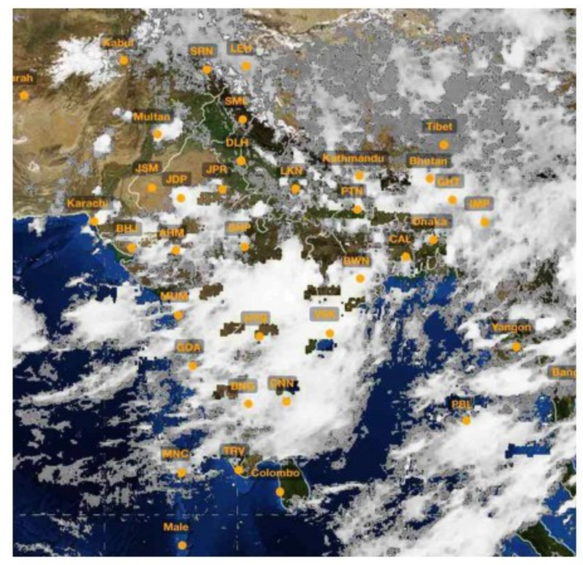
The agency had already frozen several CPI(M) bank accounts and impounded a few of its properties in Thrissur. It also froze the bank account of CPI(M) legislator and party's State committee member A.C. Moideen and questioned him several times. Other CPI(M) leaders, including P.K. Biju, were also under the agency's scanner.

The CPI(M) was also conscious of the political fallout of the ED's efforts to cast the party leadership at the centre of the cooperative bank fraud. For one, the Left Democratic Front had emerged a distant third in the Irinjalakuda Assembly segment in the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls.

The Congress and the BJP exploited the alleged cooperative bank loan fraud to assail the CPI(M) and mar its public image in the State. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had used the scam as a major campaigning platform against the CPI(M) in Kerala and promised not to let the "perpetrators of the fraud on unsuspecting and poor depositors" go scot-free.

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday




TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Sunday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | 13 | 30.4 | 26.4 | Kozhikode | 23 | 32.7 | 25.7 |
| Ahmedabad | 5.5 | 34.1 | 27.3 | Kurnool | — | 35.6 | 26.6 |
| Aizawl | 2 | 30.4 | 24.9 | Lucknow | 56 | 33.8 | 25.0 |
| Allahabad | — | 34.8 | 28.0 | Madurai | — | 39.7 | 26.6 |
| Bengaluru | 1 | 29.7 | 21.1 | Mangaluru | 8 | 30.2 | 25.0 |
| Bhopal | 6 | 32.4 | 25.2 | Mumbai | 33 | 31.3 | 26.6 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 32.9 | 26.6 | Mysuru | 0.6 | 29.0 | 20.0 |
| Chandigarh | — | 40.0 | 30.4 | New Delhi | — | 35.6 | 28.0 |
| Chennai | — | 36.6 | 28.9 | Patna | — | 37.0 | 29.3 |
| Coimbatore | — | 32.0 | 23.6 | Port Blair | 34 | 29.4 | 24.2 |
| Dehradun | 3 | 35.4 | 25.9 | Puducherry | — | 36.1 | 27.2 |
| Gangtok | 42 | 22.0 | 18.4 | Pune | 5.2 | 30.5 | 23.2 |
| Goa | 15 | 32.1 | 26.2 | Raipur | 3 | 28.2 | 26.2 |
| Guwahati | — | 31.8 | 26.4 | Ranchi | — | 32.7 | 24.8 |
| Hubballi | — | 29.0 | 24.0 | Shillong | 10 | 24.2 | 18.5 |
| Hyderabad | 4 | 31.6 | 24.8 | Shimla | — | 27.4 | 21.3 |
| Imphal | 30 | 30.9 | 21.5 | Srinagar | — | 30.9 | 20.6 |
| Jaipur | — | 34.2 | 29.4 | Thiruvananthapuram | 9 | 32.1 | 24.8 |
| Kochi | 7 | 30.6 | 25.4 | Tiruchi | — | 37.7 | 26.6 |
| Kohima | 21 | 28.6 | 17.4 | Vijayawada | 11 | 33.4 | 26.5 |
| Kolkata | 11 | 33.6 | 27.3 | Visakhapatnam | 0.1 | 30.6 | 28.1 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | .13 | 116 | .43 | 42 | 44 | |
| Bengaluru | .8 | .17 | .50 | 68 | 87 | |
| Chennai | .5 | .7 | .99 | — | 75 | |
| Delhi | .7 | .71 | .50 | 77 | 202 | |
| Hyderabad | .8 | .10 | .22 | 77 | 82 | |
| Kolkata | .7 | .30 | .39 | 24 | 49 | |
| Lucknow | .13 | .15 | 108 | 36 | 47 | |
| Mumbai | .7 | .26 | .51 | 12 | 106 | |
| Pune | .15 | .33 | .27 | 54 | 48 | |
| Visakhapatnam | .11 | .59 | .32 | 52 | 110 | |

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Rohtak, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 260 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 9

**Air Quality Code:** Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

## Gram panchayat secretaries in Karnataka to register births and deaths from tomorrow

**The Hindu Bureau**
MYSURU/BENGALURU

In a bid to make birth and death certificates easily procurable, the gram panchayats (GPs) will start issuing the documents starting Monday. GP secretaries are now empowered to register births and deaths and issue the certificates to whoever seeks them at the panchayats, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge announced this in a release.

This will enable registration within 30 days of birth or death.

Those with queries can seek clarifications by mailing crbdkar@gmail.com or ejanmahelpdesk@gmail.com or call the helpline 1800-425-6578.

At the launch of the programme in Mandya on Saturday, Mandya Zilla Panchayat CEO Sheikh Tanveer Asif, said the registration of births and deaths was enforced in 1969. As the procedure is made easy, with the public easily procuring the certificates, the government has empowered the GP secretaries as the registration authorities for births and deaths.

He said the GP secretaries would now discharge the role as the authority for registering births and deaths and issue the certificates from Monday. In this regard, the programme was organised where the secretaries got training on the procedure. They must discharge their duties in such a way that the public should not be inconvenienced, and the certificates have to be issued within the prescribed time, registering the births and deaths within 30 days.

## D. Srinivas passes away

**The Hindu Bureau**
HYDERABAD

Senior Congress leader and former united Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee president Dharmapuri Srinivas passed away on Saturday following a heart attack. Mr. Srinivas, 76, breathed his last at his house. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

The last rites would be performed with State honours on Sunday in Nizamabad.

**Deputy Commissioner Office, Kolar District, Kolar**
**(District Urban Development Cell, Kolar)**
Phone & Fax No.**08152-243555**
E-mail: **ka.kolar.dudc@gmail.com**
No: DUDC/IC/CR/42/2023-24 Date: 26.06.2024
**Tender Notification (Call-2)**
(As per the conditions of the standard tender document e-procurement tender notification)
Providing Hotel/restaurant services for Indira canteen Tender through Karnataka Procurement Portal as per the GO. No.FD/06/PCL/2006, Bangalore from the Registered, Eligible Contractors. For details visit **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The Indent Numbers details below. Any addendums will be notified through Karnataka Procurement portal only.
Work Indent No.: **DMA/2023-24/IND1121/CALL-2.** Estimated Amount: Rs. **294.19 lakhs.** EMD Amount: **Rs. 4.41 lakhs.** Tender last date and Bid Opening date should be seen in KPPP Portal Website
**Sd/- Project Director,**
**District Urban Development Cell, Kolar.**
DIPR/KOLAR/R.O.No.55/KSMCA/2024-25

Zilla Panchayath, Tumkur
Office of The Executive Engineer,
**Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Tumkur**
NO.05/EE/RDWS&SD/TMK/JJM/AE-3/634/2024-25
Date: 27.06.2024
**Short Term Tender Notification**
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division Tumkur has Invites request for proposal tenders from the eligible bidders for the Two Cover work detailed in the table below. Tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The tenders are Required to submit through Karnataka Public Procurement mode through portal. (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) from Class-IV & above PWD Registered Contractors who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following JJM Works of Kunigal, Madhugiri and Koratagere Taluk of Tumkur Dist. As per the schedule given below. (Minimum Tender Amount Rs.7.80 Lakhs EMD Amount Rs.19,500/- and Maximum Tender Amount Rs.83.52 Lakhs EMD Amount Rs .1,67,040/-)
**Particulars & Details:** 1. Last date of submit bids on Karnataka Public Procurement portal **09.07.2024** Upto 17.00 Hours. 2. Pre Bid Meeting: Date: **04.07.2024** at 11.00 AM Venue, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division Tumkur. 3. Technical Opening of Bids: **10.07.2024** at 17.30 PM onwards. 4. Financial Opening of Bids **12.07.2024** at 11.00 A M onwards.
For further particulars/details may avail from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and may visit the website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)
**Sd/-** Executve Engineer,
RDW & S Division, Tumkur.
DIPR/TUM/104/KSMCA/2024-25

**Bharat Coking Coal Limited**
A Mini Ratna Company
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
**NOTICE**
All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of BCCL **www.bcclweb.in**, Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in**. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**.
*This is applicable to all Open (Domestic/Global) Tenders issued thorugh e-procurement portal of CIL.

**Office of the Executive Engineer,**
**Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Mandya.**
**EE/PRED/MDY/ZPM/MPA/NIT/2024-25 435**
**Dated: 27/06/2024.**
**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No.04/2024-25**
**(Two cover system)**
On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per directions of Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Mandya, The Executive Engineer, PRE division, Mandya, invites tenders from eligible registered Agencies/Companies in two cover system for Selection of Manpower agency for providing out sourcing services in Mandya district under MGNREGS for the period of 5 Years, through KPPP Portal. Amount put to tender (Approximate) **Rs. 488,82,000.00, EMD Rs.7,33,250.00.** The last date for submission of tenders: **29.07.2024** Upto **4.00pm.** The tender documents can be downloaded from the KPPP Portal. For more details can be obtained from the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (OR) office of the Deputy Secretary, Zilla Panchayat, Mandya/Executive Engineer, PRE division, Mandya in office working hours.
**Sd/-Executive Engineer, PRE Division, Mandya**
DIPR/AD-MDY/KSMCA/116/2024-25

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayat Shivamogga
**Office of The Executive Engineer,**
**Panchayat Raj Engineering Divison, Sagara.**
No.: EE/PRE/DS/Hosanagara/Sagara/Soraba/KW-1&2/AE/JE/2024-25/285 Date: 28.06.2024
**Tender Notice (Through "K.P.P.P.")**
From this Division to quote Itemwar rates for the works approved under 5054 Special Grant Scheme for the year 2024-25 on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Itemwar Tenders are invited through "K.P.P.P.", as per the Rules of the Department in Standard Document for Procurement of Work KW-1&2 forms from eligible contractors registered in Panchayat Raj Engineering/Public Works Department and Registered in "K.P.P.P." Institution. Contractors remitting Form Fee and E.M.D. through filling of Challan in e-payment (Credit Card/Direct Debit/NEFT & OTC) should submit two days earlier to the last date.
**1)** Date for downloading Tender Form: from 28.06.2024 to 15.07.2024. **2)** Last date to submit Tender Form: 15.07.2024, 17:00:00 **3**) Date of opening bid: 16.07.2024, 17:01:00
For details of "K.P.P.P." website tender contact the office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Sagara and can be viewed in e-procurement website (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) and can be downloaded. Further information can be obtained from the concerned case worker of this office on phone No. 08183-226064 during office hours or contact hp helpdesk phone No.: 080-25501216, 25501227.
**Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Sagara**
DIPR/smg/NO:139/06/ksmca/24-25/175

Government of Karnataka
**District Health and F.W. Association (R.), Chitradurga**
**District Project Management Unit, Chitradurga.**
**National Health Mission District laboratory**
**Compound, Behind District Hospital, Chitradurga.**
Ph.: 08194-234132 e-mail: rchochitradurga@gmail.com
No.: DPMU/NHM/CTA/58/2024-25 Date: 29.06.2024
**e-Tender Notice**
e-Tender is invited from eligible Human Resource Organisations to provide Human Resource Services to the office of District Project Management Unit, N.H.M. Chitradurga on outsource basis as per details mentioned below.
1) DHFWS/ 2024-25/SE0785, Details of Human Resource to be provided:-Accounts Assistants and Data Entry Operators and other Personnel. No. of Posts:- Total 88 posts.
Last Date for submission of tender:- 29.07.2024
(2) DHFWS/ 2024-25/SE0786, Details of Human Resource to be provided:- Drivers for Nagu-Magu Vehicle Drivers for Janani Suraksha Vahini Vehicle. No. of Posts:- Total 18 posts
Last Date for submission of tender:-29.07.2024
(3) DHFWS/ 2024-25/SE0784, Details of Human Resource to be provided:- 1) 2 vehicles per Taluk for R.B.S.K. School Health Programme 2) 1 vehicle for District Programme Manager
3) 1 vehicle for District Quality Manager
No. of Posts:- Total 14 vehicles (Vehicle should be of 2022 or later model) Last Date for submission of tender:- 29.07.2024
e-tender is invited as per e-procurement Rules from Outsource Contractors. Tender Documents can be obtained (Through Download) through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in in the fixed period from 29.06.2024 and Tender should be submitted as per e-Tender Rules for above mentioned Sl. No. 1, 2 and 3 separately.
Sd/- Sd/- Member Secretary,
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/82/2024-25 District Health and F.W. Association (R.), Chitradurga

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ
(ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ)
E-mail : itstaff_dudc_yadgiri@yahoo.com : dudc_yadgiri@yahoo.com
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08473 253288, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08473 253701
ಕಡತ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಜನಕೋ/ಯೋಜನೆ/ /2024-25/467 ದಿನಾಂಕ:26.06.2024
**~: ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ :~**
(ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯುರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾನೂನು – 1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳು –2000 ರಂತೆ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಿಯಿಸಿದ (ರೆಜಿಸ್ಟ್ರೇಷನ್) ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರಿಂದ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
**01) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 26.06.2024 **02) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ:** 04.07.2024 Time : 04.30. **03) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ:** 05.07.2024 Time : 05.00 **04) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ:** 08.07.2024 Time : 11.00
**1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT18645. **ವಿವರ:** Estimation for Conservation and Construction of Proposed Steps in Yadgir Fort . **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 64.32, **ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 1.29
**ಷರತ್ತು:** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.
ಸಹಿ/- ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.
ಪಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/47/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2024-25

**Office of Deputy Commissioner**
**Chickaballapur District, Chickballapur**
**(District Urban Development Cell)**
E-Mail: **ka.chikkaballapur.dudc@gmail.com**, Ph.: **08156-277005**
NO.DUDC/INDIRA CANTEEN/CR/02/2021-22 Date:26.06.2024
**RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION**
(1) Tenders are invited from the eligible Tenderers, for Providing Catering Services for Indira Canteens in Urban Local Bodies of Chikkaballapur District in Karnataka State detailed in the table below. Two tender document procedure as per KTPP Act & rules 2000 shall be followed. (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (3) Tenders must be electronically submitted in e-procurement portal. (4) Further information, if required, can be obtained from the office of the Asst Executive Engineer, DUDC, FA-07, DC office complex, Chikkaballapur during working hours.
**(1)** Pre-bid meeting (Venue-DUDC office): **01.07.2024, 11:00 A.M. (2)** Last date & Time for receipt of tenders: **12.07.2024, 5:30 P.M. (3)** Date & Time for opening of Technical bid: **15.07.2024, 11:00 A.M. (4)** Date & Time for opening of Financial bid: **18.07.2024, 11:00 A.M. or Later.**
**Name of Work: (1)** Package:- 1 INDENT No.DMA/2023-24/IND0609) Providing Catering Services for Indira Canteens in CMC Chikkaballapur, CMC Gowribidanur & TP Gudibande. Urban Local Bodies of Chikkaballapur District (No.DMA/2023-24/IND0609/Call-2). Approximate value of Goods & Services per year: **Rs. 271.56 Lakhs (Including GST).** E.M.D: **Rs. 4.80 Lakhs. (2)** Package:- 2 INDENTNo. No.DMA/2023-24/IND0608)Providing Catering Services for Indira Canteens in CMC Chintamani, CMC Sidlaghatta & TMC Bagepalli. Urban Local Bodies of Chikkaballapur District (No.DMA/2023-24/ IND0608/Call-2). Approximate value of Goods & Services per year: **Rs. 294.19 Lakhs (Including GST).** E.M.D: **Rs. 4.42 Lakhs.** Change in calendar of events (if any) will be published in e-procurement portal only. Paper notification will not be given.
**Sd/- Deputy Commissioner, Chickaballapur District.**
DIPR/Chickaballapur/R.O.No.65/KSMCA/2024-25

## From Page One

### CBI holds searches in Gujarat in NEET leak case

CBI officials have carried out searches in Jharkhand and Gujarat in connection with the NEET paper leak case. PTI

It is alleged that Mr. Prakash and Mr. Kumar played a crucial role in arranging to rent the Learn Boys Hostel and Play School in Patna's Khemnichak locality, where the leaked question papers were allegedly distributed to the 20 to 25 candidates gathered there on the eve of the examination, so that they could memorise the answers overnight.

The CBI has been granted the custody of the five accused for five days by a special court. Sources said that the agency may take all the accused to Delhi as part of the investigation.

The CBI team also visited several locations in Patna for spot verification along with Baldev Kumar alias Chintu and Mukesh Kumar, both residents of Nalanda in Bihar.

Mr. Baldev Kumar allegedly received the solved question paper of the NEET-UG exam on his mobile phone in PDF format, after which it was printed out using a wi-fi printer and distributed among the candidates to memorise the answers at the play school. Mr. Mukesh Kumar has been accused of facilitating the offence by picking up and dropping off the candidates after they memorised the answers.

The CBI is also on the lookout for Rocky, the nephew of the main accused Sanjiv Mukhiya.

# Five soldiers killed as tank swept away in Ladakh's Shyok river

They were part of a tank crew withdrawing after training in a crucial location; rescue mission failed due to heavy current and high water levels

**The Hindu Bureau**
SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI

Five soldiers lost their lives after a tank was swept away by strong water currents in the Shyok river during military training in Ladakh on Friday night.

An Army spokesman said the incident took place as the team was withdrawing after completing a military training activity. The Army tank got stuck in the Shyok, near Saser Brangsa, in eastern Ladakh "due to sudden increase in the water level".

"Rescue teams rushed to the location. However, due to high current and water levels, the rescue mission did not succeed and the tank crew lost their lives," the Army said.

The bodies have been recovered. The deceased soldiers have been identified as Risaldar M.R.K. Reddy, Havildar Subhan Khan, Daffadar Bhupndra Negi, Lance Daffadar Ekeidaung Teibam, and craftsman Sadarbonia Nagaraju.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed his sadness at the loss of lives.

"We will never forget the exemplary service of our gallant soldiers to the nation. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. The nation stands firm with them during this hour of grief," Mr. Singh said.

**Treacherous waters:** A view of the Shyok river in the eastern Ladakh region. REUTERS

The Army spokesman said that the Fire and Fury Corps, stationed in Ladakh, and all ranks "salute the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in Ladakh" and offered deep condolences to the bereaved families.

The crucial Sub-Sector North in Ladakh, where the incident occurred, consists of the Depsang plains and Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO). Currently, the airfield at DBO and the area in general is accessible only by the 255-km Darbuk-Shyok-DBO road, though work is at an advanced stage to build alternative access through Saser La, an ancient trade route. DBO also has one of the designated border personnel meeting points between India and China to resolve incidents along the Line of Actual Control. Since the beginning of the stand-off with China in May 2020, there has been a significant deployment of tanks, infantry vehicles and other heavy equipment.

# On CBI plea, Delhi court sends Arvind Kejriwal to judicial custody till July 12

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday sent Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to judicial custody till July 12 in a case filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with alleged corruption in the now-scrapped excise policy of 2021-22.

The order for the judicial remand was passed by Special Judge Sunena Sharma of the Rouse Avenue court after the CBI had moved an application seeking judicial custody of the Delhi Chief Minister.

"He needs to be in jail in the interest of the investigation and justice," the CBI said in its remand application, and added that the Delhi Chief Minister had not cooperated in the interrogation.

Counsel representing Mr. Kejriwal opposed the application saying the case had been going on since 2022, though the Chief Minister was arrested only in March.

"...The Supreme Court granted Mr. Kejriwal interim bail to campaign for general elections. The CBI had urged that some evidence was collected against Mr. Kejriwal in January and they got prosecution sanction under the Prevention of Corruption Act in April but the agency did not want to overreach the proceedings of the SC which is why it never arrested him," advocate Vikram Chaudhary, who represented Mr. Kejriwal, said.

Delhi Chief Minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal being produced before a court by CBI officials, on Saturday. PTI

**Material sought**

He also moved an application to seek details of material collected against his client in the alleged excise policy case.

"These material found against him cannot be disclosed to the accused," the court said.

The court, earlier this week, had remanded the Delhi Chief Minister to CBI custody for three days which ended on Saturday. The CBI interrogated him in the jail on June 25.

Mr. Kejriwal was initially arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 21 on money laundering charges linked to the liquor policy case.

The ED had alleged him to be the "key conspirator" in framing the now defunct excise policy.

The agency also accused Mr. Kejriwal of diverting the monetary profits gained from the policy into the AAP coffers for the Goa Assembly election.

# Two men lynched in Kolkata in separate incidents over suspicion of cellphone theft

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOLKATA

**Fourteen persons were arrested for the killing in a student hostel and three in the Salt Lake case**

Two lynching cases in a span of 24 hours in Kolkata, one in the heart of the city and the other in the Salt Lake area, have caused concern among its residents. Both killings were due to suspicion of mobile phone theft.

Irshad Alam, 37, was tied up and beaten to death inside a students' hostel in the Bow Bazaar area in central Kolkata on Friday. The police arrested 14 persons in this connection. Just 24 hours later, Prasen Mandal, 22, was lynched in the Salt Lake area, the police said. Three persons were arrested for the murder of Mandal. Reports said the accused, after brutally assaulting the victim, took him to a private hospital, where he was declared dead.

The Bidhannagar Police said when the hospital staff enquired about the deceased and the injuries on his body, the three accused could not provide satisfactory answers.

The staff got suspicious and informed the local police. They were taken to the Electronics Complex police station for questioning, where they confessed that they had assaulted the victim on suspicion of mobile phone theft.

The police said Alam was beaten to death inside the Udayan Government Hostel on Friday. CCTV footage is missing and it is suspected that the evidence was destroyed. Alam, a mechanic at a television repair shop, was reportedly caught by a mob, and around 8.30 a.m., was taken to the first floor of the hostel, where he was assaulted.

The police filed a case under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 365 (kidnapping) and 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code at the Muchipara station. All arrested suspects are students or former students of various Kolkata colleges.

# After delay due to supply chain-related issues, LCA-Mk1A deliveries may begin by end of July

**Dinakar Peri**
NEW DELHI

After some delay, the deliveries of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1A by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) to the Indian Air Force (IAF) are now expected to begin by July-end with officials stating that the delay is due to supply chain issues, including at the HAL and at General Electric (GE) in delivering the engines.

One jet is now expected to be handed over to the IAF by July-end, two officials independently confirmed.

In February 2021, the Defence Ministry signed a ₹48,000-crore deal with the HAL for 83 LCA-Mk1A jets, a more capable fighter than the LCA-MK1 in service.

The first aircraft, LA5033, of the Tejas Mk1A Aircraft series took to the skies from the HAL facility in Bengaluru on March 28. FILE PHOTO

Under the contract, three LCA-MK1A planes were to be delivered to the IAF in February 2024 and 16 aircraft per year for the subsequent five years. As the present LCA, these fighter jets will be powered by the GE F-404 engines.

There have been significant supply chain delays that have delayed the manufacture and deliveries, HAL and defence officials said while expressing confidence that the process would be speeded up once deliveries begin with plans lined up to scale production rate to 18 aircraft a year and eventually to 24 aircraft rolling out of three manufacturing lines every year.

To questions from *The Hindu* on delay in engine deliveries to the HAL, a GE Aerospace spokesperson said: "The aerospace industry continues to experience unprecedented supply chain pressures. GE Aerospace is working with our partner HAL and suppliers to resolve constraints and deliver F404-IN20 engines."

The LCA is going to constitute the bulk of the IAF in the next few decades.

In addition to the 83 Mk1A aircraft on order, the Defence Ministry has given preliminary approval for procurement of another 97 LCA-Mk1A jets. This would eventually make 180 LCA-MK1A jets and 220 jets of the MK1 variant. The combined cost of the 180 Mk1As is an estimated of ₹1.15 lakh crore.

In addition, a larger and more capable LCA-Mk2 is under development that will be powered by the GE F-414 engines.

A deal for the HAL to license-manufacture the engines in India is in advanced stages. As of now, the IAF has committed to procuring around 120 LCA-Mk2 jets.

The IAF has two MiG-21 squadrons, No. 3 squadron 'Cobras' and No. 23 squadron 'Panthers', remaining in service, one of which will be phased out this year and the other next year, and they will convert to LCA-Mk1A aircraft.

Timely induction of the LCAs is crucial to keep the number of fighter squadrons from falling below 30.

# Create a force that is first in the field of disaster management, says Shah

**Samridhi Tewari**
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said disasters such as avalanches, landslips, floods, and storms are going to increase everywhere in the future due to climate change. Keeping this in mind, governments and society at large should move firmly towards the goal of zero casualty by using scientific principles for the development of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as its budget has increased from ₹66,000 crore to ₹2 lakh crore in 10 years.

Mr. Shah, who was speaking at the successful return of the second mountaineering expedition 'Vijay' of the NDRF in New Delhi, said that the government still has to increase its efficiency in many areas of disaster management, such as forest fires. "Saving human lives is not our only objective during forest fires, but we have to bring experiments happening all over the world on how to save forests and what we can do so that there is no fire on the ground. We need to prepare ourselves more for the floods caused by cloudburst," he added.

Amit Shah being felicitated by NDRF Director-General Piyush Anand during the flag-in ceremony of a mountaineering expedition. ANI

"We should create a force in India that is first in the field of disaster management in the entire country. The PM himself is very concerned and aware of disaster management and the success achieved by India in this field is the result of this. He said that between 2004 and 2014, a total budget of ₹66,000 crore was allocated to the SDRFs and NDRF for disaster relief, which increased to ₹2 lakh crore in 10 years from 2014 to 2024," he said.

"There was a demand for risk and hardship allowance for NDRF personnel for a long time and the Government of India under the leadership of PM has accepted this demand yesterday. Now, 16,000 personnel of NDRF will get risk and hardship allowance at the rate of 40%," he said.

Mr. Shah said the Centre has decided that a team of the Central Armed Police Forces will participate in sports competitions. He said that the government will come up with a model for its implementation.

# Grave danger in perceiving courts as temples, judges as deities: CJI

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOLKATA

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Saturday cautioned about the dangers of perceiving courts as "temples of justice" and "judges as deities", and said that judges should look at themselves as "servers of the people".

"There is a grave danger when people say that courts are temples of justice. There is a grave danger that we perceive ourselves as deities in these temples. I am a little reticent when I am told that this is a temple of justice, because temple postulates that judges are in the position of deity," the CJI said at an event in Kolkata.

He said that he would rather recast the role of "judges as servers of people" who brought in compassion and empathy.

**Warm greeting:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud in Kolkata on Saturday. ANI

**Constitutional values**

Delivering the keynote address at the two-day East Zone II regional conference of the National Judicial Academy, CJI Chandrachud touched on the issue of "constitutional morality" that paves the way for conditions that respect diversity, promote inclusion and pursue tolerance.

"Constitutional morality is an overarching principle which is derived from, but is not confined to, specific rights or values which are enshrined in the Constitution," he said.

"We may be masters of constitutional interpretation, because the task of interpolation has been given to us. But we are servants of the Constitution," he said. Mr. Chandrachud said that the idea of a just society should hinge on the constitutional vision and not what an individual thinks should be a just society.

Delivering a special address at the programme, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appealed to members of the judiciary to ensure that political bias does not interfere with the justice delivery system.

Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court T.S. Sivagnanam and judges of the Supreme Court, including Justice Dipankar Datta, were among those present at the programme, which was organised in collaboration with the Calcutta High Court and West Bengal Judicial Academy.

## Om Birla's comments on Emergency not apt: Pawar

**Press Trust of India**
KOLHAPUR

Nationalist Congress Party (SP) president Sharad Pawar on Saturday said the reference to the Emergency made by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in his speech was not apt and did not suit the stature of his post. Soon after his election as Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla on Wednesday set off a firestorm by reading out a resolution condemning the imposition of the Emergency as an attack on the Constitution by the then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Mr. Pawar said, "The Speaker's reference to the Emergency in his address did not suit the stature of the post. It has been 50 years since the Emergency, Indira Gandhi is no longer alive. So why is the Speaker bringing up this issue now?" "The President's speech also had a brief mention of this issue. That was also not necessary," he said.

# INDIA bloc plans a united front for a possible Deputy Speaker election

It is still uncertain if the Modi government will fill the post in the current Lok Sabha; Opposition is likely to field Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad in case an election is held, though traditionally, the post goes to the single largest Opposition party

**Sobhana K. Nair**
NEW DELHI

Awadhesh Prasad at the Parliament House complex during the first session of the 18th Lok Sabh on Wednesday. PTI

The Opposition is likely to field Faizabad MP and Samajwadi Party leader Awadhesh Prasad for a likely election to the post of Deputy Speaker. Learning from their experience during the Speaker's election, where differences between the Congress and the Trinamool Congress came to the fore, the Opposition has decided to present a united front to force a contest for the position.

Though constitutionally mandated, the 17th Lok Sabha functioned without a Deputy Speaker. Besides speculation, there has been no formal indication from the government that the position will be filled in the 18th Lok Sabha either.

Article 93 of the Constitution mandates that the Lok Sabha shall, "as soon as may be", choose a member to be the Deputy Speaker. However, it does not provide a specific time frame.

**Consensus candidate**

According to sources, the top leadership of the Congress, Trinamool and SP – the three leading parties of the Opposition INDIA bloc – had informal talks to pick a consensus candidate who could send a strong message.

The leaders narrowed down their choice to Mr. Prasad, a nine-time MLA and first-time MP who hit the headlines for defeating the BJP's two-time MP Lallu Singh in the Faizabad Lok Sabha constituency. The recently consecrated Ram Temple in Ayodhya, which the BJP had hoped would see them through to an easy majority, falls within this constituency.

"Mr. Prasad's victory symbolises the defeat of the BJP's Hindutva agenda. As a Dalit leader, his victory from a general seat was also an extremely significant moment in Indian political history," a top Opposition leader said. If the government does not make a move to appoint a Deputy Speaker before the first session of Parliament ends on July 3, the Opposition will write to the Lok Sabha Speaker on the issue, sources said.

A Deputy Speaker enjoys the same legislative powers as a Speaker. And in the absence of the Speaker due of death, illnesses or any other reason, the Deputy Speaker assumes the administrative powers. It is parliamentary convention to elect a Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha from a party other than the ruling party to run an accountable democratic Parliament.

Traditionally, the position is reserved for the single largest Opposition party but not all governments have followed this norm. In 2014, in the first term of the Narendra Modi government, the post was accorded to Thambi Durai of the the BJP ally All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. In 2004 and 2009, when the Congress-led UPA government was in power, Shiromani Akali Dal MP Charanjit Singh Atwal and BJP MP Kariya Munda held the position. During the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, the Congress's P.M. Sayeed held the position.

## Bengal Governor files defamation suit in HC against Mamata

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOLKATA

C.V. Ananda Bose

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on Friday moved the Calcutta High Court against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, filing a defamation suit against her. The development came a day after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said that women did not feel safe visiting the Raj Bhavan.

Ms. Banerjee made the remark on the issue relating to the swearing-in of two newly elected Trinamool Congress MLAs, who refused to go to the Raj Bhavan for being administered the oath by the Governor.

"Why must everyone go to Raj Bhavan? The Governor can authorise the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, or attend the Assembly himself. Women have informed me they do not feel safe visiting Raj Bhavan due to recent incidents reported there," the Chief Minister had said. A woman employee had raised allegations of harassment against the Governor on May 2.

The Governor had responded to the remarks of the Chief Minister by saying that it was expected of public representatives not to create "erroneous and slanderous impressions".

Two MLAs-elect, Sayantika Bandyopadhyay and Rayat Hossain Sarkar, have been demanding that the Governor administer the oath to them at the Assembly.

Meanwhile, the Governor told presspersons that he was suing the Chief Minister for defamation.

## Janata Dal(U) appoints RS member Sanjay Jha its working president

**Amarnath Tewary**
PATNA

Sanjay Jha

At its national executive meeting in Delhi on Saturday, the Janata Dal (United), part of the ruling alliance in Bihar, appointed party leader and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Jha its working president, and passed a resolution demanding special status or a special package for the State.

Mr. Jha, who has been close to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, is seen as having been instrumental in the JD(U) joining hands with the BJP again ahead of the Lok Sabha election. Mr. Kumar is currently the party's national president.

"Our national party president has entrusted a big responsibility to me by appointing me the working president of the party. We will try to work with ally BJP, maintaining more coordination," Mr. Jha told presspersons in Delhi after his appointment.

"What sort of Bihar did Mr. Kumar take over 19 years ago," Mr. Jha asked. "...whatever growth and development has been done in Bihar in the past 19 years is because of its own resources."

"Despite 19 years of regime, there has been no anti-incumbency trend against Mr. Kumar in the State and this was reflected in the just-concluded Lok Sabha election result," Mr. Jha said, showering praise on Mr. Kumar.

Asked about the JD(U)'s resolution seeking special category status or a special package for Bihar at the party's national meet, Mr. Jha expressed hope that the demand would be met. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always paid attention to Bihar and I do hope that the party's demand for special category status or a package for the State will be met," he said.

However, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, wondered if the demand would be forceful enough.

"Would (Bihar) Chief Minister dare to pass such a resolution from the State's Cabinet as well? Would Chief Minister of Bihar put this demand forcefully?" Mr. Ramesh said.

Party sources also told *The Hindu* that Mr. Jha was chosen for the post of working president of JD(U) as he "maintains a good relationship with both the BJP and the JD(U)".

## Quota posts cannot be unreserved, U.P. government replies to Anupriya's letter

**Ishita Mishra**
NEW DELHI

Days after Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel alleged bias against applicants from the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in government jobs in Uttar Pradesh (U.P.), the Yogi Adityanath government in the State sent a detailed reply to her, explaining that reservation posts remaining vacant after the selection process could not be converted to unreserved posts, as claimed by her.

Ms. Patel is the national president of the Apna Dal (Soneylal), an ally of the ruling BJP in U.P.

**'No personal details'**

The government also said that applicants were given grades; no one was rejected with "not suitable" remarks; and the candidates' personal details were not shown to interviewers.

"The candidates from OBC and SC/ST communities are constantly contacting me and saying that they are often declared 'Not Found Suitable' for the posts reserved for them in various competitive examinations that have an interview-based recruitment process. Later, these posts are declared unreserved," Ms. Patel said in her letter to Mr. Adityanath.

Sources said the government had taken the allegation seriously, and the Chief Minister's Office asked the department concerned to reply to the Union Minister.

In the reply sent to Ms. Patel, it was said that if candidates of the given categories did not clear the exam, then the UPPSC did not have the right to convert the resulting unfilled vacancies to any other category.

## Congress targets Modi over Adani Group's ties with Chinese firms

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday, citing a news report about the Adani Group selecting eight Chinese companies to assist its solar manufacturing project, questioned if the taxpayers' money should benefit the Chinese firms.

Slamming Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a post on X, Congress general secretary (organisation) Jairam Ramesh called for a strategy "to wean India of its dependence on China".

"The non-biological Prime Minister infamously told the nation on June 19, 2020, after the Galwan clashes that *Na koi hamari seema mein ghus aaya hai, na hi koi ghusa hua hai* (Neither has anyone entered our borders, nor has anyone occupied territories). However, he shows no hesitation in liberally issuing visas to Chinese workers to help one of his *tempowallah* buddies," Mr. Ramesh said, tagging the newspaper report about Adani Solar trying to bring engineers from China.

Mr. Ramesh said these collaborations are happening in the name of *Atmanirbharata* (self-reliance).

**TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI**
O/o Chief Vigilance & Security Officer — e-TENDER NOTICE
Roc.No.TTD-22021(36)/3/2023-CE-(AD) Date:28/06/2024

| Sl. No. | Name of the work | Schedule Download | Download end Date & Last Date for bid submission |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Refilling of 611 Nos. Fire Fighting Extinguishers to Certain TTD Buildings at Tirumala along with Hydraulic Pressure Test, Refilling, Painting & Supply of spares for a period of one (01) year. | 01-07-2024 @ 03.00 p.m. | Download End Date: 22-07-2024 @ 12.00 p.m. Bid Submission End Date: 22-07-2024 @ 05.00 p.m. |

Tender Document can be downloaded from the website:https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. For further details if any: (a) Contact Phone No.0877-2264279 (b) E-mail ID: cc2acvsottd@gmail.com
TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv.No.50) Date:29-06-2024 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Government Of Gujarata**
Naramada, Water Resource, Water Supply & Kalpsar Department Gandhinagar
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 4 OF 2024-25 (Tender ID-80307)

| | |
|---|---|
| (1) Name of Work: | Dismantling old Existing Hydraulic Cylinder, power pack for Main Penstock gate and Dismantling old Existing Hydraulic Cylinder, power pack for Canal Penstock gate with Provide New latest technology Hydraulic Cylinder, power pack and its Design with Supply, Fitting, Installation, and Testing with all necessary accessories & provide Sufficient hydraulic oil (Power pack & Hydraulic Cylinder) fitting on existing Structure of Power pack & hydraulic cylinder as per Specification @ Ukai Dam, Dist.-Tapi,Near-Surat, State- Gujarat. |
| (2) Estimated Cost: | Rs. 8,04,46,500.00 |
| (3) Pre-Bid Meeting (Off Line) | Dt. 12/07/2024 at 12.00 hrs. |
| (4) Last Date/Time for receipt of Tender (ON LINE) | Dt.29/07/2024 up to 16.00 Hrs. |
| (5) Name & Addres of the Executive Engineer Concerned | Executive Engineer Irrigation Mechanical Gate & Store Division No. 1, Room No.703, 7th Floor, "C" Block Naramad Bhavan, Jail Road, Vadodara - 390001 Phone: 0265-2425149 Fax No: 0265-2429170 |
| (6)Further details can be downloded from www.tender.nprocure.com and also seen on Information & Broadcasting Department's website www.statetenders.gujarat.gov.in. Any kind of amendments will be published only online & it will be consider final & binding to all bidders | |

INF-VAD-214-24-25

**The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd**
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 E-Mail :md@kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal: https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

| No | TENDER ID | ITEMS |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2024_KMML_676801_1 | For supply of 81 MT Potassium Chloride |
| 2 | 2024_KMML_676055_1 | For the supply of Roaster Discharge Grating Assembly |
| 3 | 2024_KMML_676589_1 | For the supply of 60,000 Nos of Polythene Product Bags |

Chavara 29.06.2024 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

**KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - TENDER NOTICE**
Tender Extension Notice
O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Transmission Circle, Alappuzha
E -Tender ID: 2024_KSEB_673957_1, PAC: Rs. 3,79,27,787/-, Last Date- 11.07.2024 03.00 pm
Re- Tender Notice
O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Electrical Circle, Manjeri, Malappuram
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_676529_1, PAC: 7,36,49,720/-, Last Date- 19.07.2024 03.00pm
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_676681_1, PAC: 7,42,52,122/-, Last Date- 19.07.2024 03.00pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
Ref : PR/MC1/E503/E-tender/2024

**STATE HEALTH AGENCY (SHA KERALA)**
സ്റ്റേറ്റ് ഹെൽത്ത് ഏജൻസി കേരളം
5th & 8th Floor, Artech Meenakshi Plaza Opp. Govt. W & C Hospital, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 014
E mail - statehealthagencykerala@gmail.com
web : www.sha.kerala.gov.in
Ph. No. 0471 4063121
INVITATION TO PROPOSAL
The State Health Agency Kerala invites qualified agencies for **Medical Audits (Direct Audit and Desk Audit), Field investigations & Verification under AB PMJAY KASP** scheme. The agencies shall be selected on basis of the evaluation criteria as provided in this RFP.
All eligible agencies / bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the eProcurement portal (**http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process. All communications with the State Health Agency shall be through Registered AD, Speed Post AD or e-mail with the authorized representative of the Bidder.
Interested bidders are requested to submit their proposals to the "RFP" on or before **17.00 hours, 17 July 2024.**
Date : 29.06.2024 Sd/- Executive Director (SHA)

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Infra Division-RI, N.R. Sqaure, Bengaluru - 560 002
No: EE/RI//TEND/05/2024-25 Date: 29.06.2024
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, Infra Division-RI, Room No.307, 3rd Floor, Annexure-03, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers on Turnkey, Lump Sum, Fixed Price, No Variation and No Escalation basis for the Construction of work detailed in the table below.

| Sl. No. | Name of Works |
|---|---|
| 1. | Providing Junction improvement works under SURAKSHA-75 in arterial and sub arterial roads at Dommaluru-HAL Old Airport Junction, Anil Kumble Circle, Hosuru Road Junction, Ashwath Nagara Bus Stop Junction (Dr. Rajkumar Road) Swami Vivekananda Metro Station Junction, Suranjan Das Road Junction-NGEF Signal and Nagawara Junction in East Zone. Cost of work proposed : **Rs.882.70 Lakhs (including GST),** EMD:**Rs.13.25 Lakhs** |
| 2. | Providing Junction improvement works under SURAKSHA-75 in arterial and sub arterial roads at K R Market, Forum Mall, Makkalakoota Circle, Devegowda Petrol Bunk & Magadi Road Toll Gate Junction in South Zone. Cost of work proposed : **Rs.490.39 Lakhs (including GST),** EMD:**Rs.7.40 Lakhs** |

**Calendar of Events :** (1) Availability of Tender documents in e-Procurement Portal on **01.07.2024** onwards. (2) Last date for Receipt of Queries is **10.07.2024** upto **13:00** Hrs. (3) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at the Office of the Engineer in Chief, BBMP 1st Floor, Annex Building-2, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002 on **10.07.2024** at **16:00** Hrs. (4) Last date for submission of Tenders is **16.07.2024** upto **16:00** Hrs. (5) Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **18.07.2024** Upto **11:00** Hrs. (6) Date of Opening of Financial Bid will be intimated to qualified tenders. **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Infra Division - RI**

उ. प्र. उर्दू अकादमी, लखनऊ (उ. प्र. सरकार) — اتر پردیش اردو اکادمی، لکھنؤ حکومت اتر پردیش
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**URDU IAS STUDY CENTRE, LUCKNOW (U.P.)**
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For details please visit Akademi website www.upurduakademi.in
U.P. Urdu Akademi, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow
Contact No. 9415179698, 0522-4022924
Last Date for Online Form Submission : 20.08.2024
Date of Admission Test : 08.09.2024
Please Contact Between 10:00 am to 05:00 pm
S.M. ADIL HASAN SECRETARY — M. SHAFQAT KAMAL (Retired IAS) DIRECTOR

By E_Mail/e-Despatch: E_Mail ID: serw_balasore@yahoo.in; Ph-No-06782/260318, Balia,Balasore
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE**
"e" - Procurement Notice for Road Work
Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No.01 of 2024-25
Letter No: - 2494 Date. 27/06/24
1. Name of the Work : SDMF Road
2. Total No. of Work : 1 No. of Work.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.430.88 (Approximately)
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : As per annexure
5. Period of Completion : As per annexure
6. Other Details :-

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No. | Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From | To | Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification | Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E., R.W.Circle, Balasore Technical Bid | Financial Bid |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore. | NCB No.- 01 | 04.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M. | 19.07.2024 Up to 5.00 P.M. | 18.07.2024 Up to 5.00 P.M. | 20.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M. | Will be intimated later |

● Further details can be seen from the website : www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Chief Engineer, R.W.Circle, Balasore.
O-69: OIPR-25105/11/0001/2425

**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR**
CORRIGENDUM No.3569, dtd.29.06.2024
The detailed **Corrigendum** of Request for Proposal (RFP) issued vide file No.DES-WB-OSCRGPP-0005-2023/dt.23.05.2024 on Hiring of Project Management Consultancy for Strengthening of State Statistical System in Odisha under Odisha State Capability and Resilient Growth Policy Programme are available in the official website of DE&S, **http://www.desorissa.nic.in/** and Planning and Convergence Department, **https://pc.odisha.gov.in/**. Besides, the last date of submission of the proposals has been extended up to **06.07.2024 by 5.00 PM.**
Sd/- DIRECTOR
X-8: OIPR-21002/11/0005/2425

## INBRIEF

### Canopy of new Rajkot airport collapses in heavy rain

A day after a portion of a canopy of the Delhi airport's Terminal-1 collapsed, a part of the canopy at a terminal in Rajkot (Hirasar) International Airport collapsed following heavy rain in Gujarat on Saturday. A video shows the canopy collapsing at the passenger pick-up/drop area outside the airport terminal. No injury or death has been reported. The new greenfield airport, built by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) at Hirasar village was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July 2023. This is the third incident of infrastructure failure at Indian airports in under a week.

### Officer suspended in J&K for 'sabotaging' Amarnath Yatra

A local officer was suspended in Anantnag district of Jammu & Kashmir on allegations of "sabotaging" the Amarnath Yatra by remaining absent from duty. Syeed Fakhrudin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, in an order, suspended Pahalgam Naib Tehsildar Ovais Amir for "leaving the station without permission and sabotaging the ongoing Amarnath yatra". A Sub-Divisional Magistrate-level officer was appointed to "inquire into the matter of non compliance of the Naib Tehsildar". "The suspended officer shall remain attached with his office during the period of his suspension," the order read.

### Nine arrested in Gauhati University marksheet scam

The Assam Police arrested nine persons, including the prime accused, in an alleged marksheet scam involving officials of Gauhati University. It came to light after Azizul Haque, an undergraduate student at the Ganesh Lal Choudhury College in Barpeta, was found to have possessed a forged marksheet. An official probing the case said the arrests were made from various locations in Guwahati, Barpeta, Kalgachia, and Dhubri. Among the arrested were Krishan Krishnamurti, an employee of Gauhati University, Shivtosh Mahato, an employee of Dhubri Law College, and Aminul Islam, a librarian of a college in Dhubri.

### 5 policemen injured during demolition drive in Kathua

Five policemen, including an officer, were injured in a clash with protesters opposing the J&K authorities' demolition drive, including a mosque, in Kathua district on Saturday. Tensions gripped the Kalyanpur Padri area in tehsil Nagri when a mob attacked and chased a joint team of the J&K Police and revenue officials carrying out an anti-encroachment drive against a mosque. A Deputy Superintendent of Police-rank officer was hit in the head and four others also sustained minor injuries when a stone-throwing mob, which was also carrying lathis, chased the policemen from the demolition spot. Several vehicles were damaged in the clash.

## Congress attacks BJP over NEET paper leak

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday alleged that the Narendra Modi-led government is not keen on allowing a parliamentary debate on the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for undergraduate medical college admissions as it will "expose" the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) links with those involved in the alleged NEET paper leak scam.

At a press conference, Gujarat Congress chief Shaktisinh Gohil claimed that one of the key accused, Arif Vohra, who has now been arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), is an office-bearer of the BJP.

Mr. Gohil also questioned why the National Testing Agency (NTA) had selected the Jay Jalaram (Gujarati) school in Godhra as an examination centre, despite the fact that the Gujarat HC had previously imposed a penalty of ₹35 lakh on the organisation that runs these schools.

"If you go Google a little bit, then you will find Jai Jalaram Education Trust among those who donated to the BJP. I have found it myself," Mr. Gohil said.

# 'Dengue may have helped stem COVID-19 wave severity'

A study was published in *Journal of Medical Virology* this week; results of the research suggest that the antibodies following a dengue infection were able to 'neutralise' the coronavirus

**Jacob Koshy**
NEW DELHI

Can the dengue virus beat the coronavirus and is it why the early wave of the pandemic in 2020 resulted in fewer COVID deaths or severe infections in India than in Europe or North America where dengue is not endemic? Research from the CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata hints at these intriguing possibilities following an analysis of antibodies from people infected with dengue and testing them against a kind of coronavirus called murine hepatitis virus (mouse coronavirus). In research settings, this virus – being part of the same family of human coronaviruses – is considered a good surrogate to study the behaviour of the coronavirus strains that infected people during the pandemic.

Their results, published in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Medical Virology* this week, suggest that the antibodies following a dengue infection were able to 'neutralise' this coronavirus. For their analysis, the scientists relied on a combination of computer-modelling studies as well as cell-culture studies, the latter demonstrating how antibodies from dengue were able to engulf and bind the coronavirus proteins.

**Masking effect:** Antibodies in the blood after a dengue infection were able to engulf and bind to coronavirus proteins. AP

These latest studies build on the lab's work from 2020 that blood tests specific to check for dengue sometimes led to a positive SARS-CoV-2 test.

"We experimentally demonstrated that serum samples from dengue patients have the potential to bind to and 'mask' the surface of several coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV-2. We performed 'virus neutralisation' tests in cell cultures and showed that such 'masking' by dengue antibodies can indeed, block coronavirus entry into susceptible cells," Subhajit Biswas, Principal Scientist and the main author of the study, told *The Hindu*.

The dengue family of viruses are different from the coronavirus family and hence infection from one, in normal circumstances, is not expected to protect against the other. What is known about dengue is that there are four major serotypes, or strains, that cause dengue infections. Strains Denv-1 and Denv-2 are the most common in India. However, being infected with one does not protect against the other and, in fact, a re-infection involving a different strain can be more dangerous – a phenomenon called antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) in dengue. Whether the prevalence of dengue in dengue-endemic countries of Southeast Asia may be triggering newer mutations in the coronavirus is a factor that needs to be investigated more extensively, the authors suggest.

That the early stages of the pandemic saw a decline in dengue in India has been independently reported. The National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme of India reported a sharp decline of 75% (39,419 versus 1,57,315) in dengue incidence during 2020 as compared with 2019.

"The possible reasons for this reduction could be lower transmission of the vector, less exposure due to lockdown, and, potentially, a disparity in the reported data possibly due to underdiagnosis or underreporting because of increased attention to the pandemic," said a 2021 study in the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygeine*.

## NEET-PG dates will be announced soon: Minister

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan said that the new schedule for NEET-PG will be announced by the National Board of Examinations (NBE) in the next two days.

Mr. Pradhan was speaking in Panchkula, Haryana ahead of a BJP event where Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed party workers.

The NEET-PG exams were cancelled last week because of the controversy raging over irregularities in the conduct of NEET-UG.

"The date of National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test, Postgraduate will be announced by the NBE in one or two days," Mr. Pradhan said.

The comments by Mr. Pradhan come a day after the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced revised dates for three exams that were cancelled.

The University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) which was cancelled a day after being conducted on June 18 will now be conducted from August 21 to September 4, the National Testing Agency said.

*(With agency inputs)*

# NTA's plan to add more online exam centres yet to take off

**Maitri Porecha**
NEW DELHI

The National Testing Agency (NTA), which is under scrutiny for multiple question paper leak controversies, failed to amp up its infrastructure for conducting tests in online mode in 2024, as its tender to multiply testing centres failed to take off, *The Hindu* has learnt.

The NTA had floated a tender in January, in order to increase its capacity of computer labs, which could house 'nodes', or seating spaces for candidates, in as many as 378 cities. "The work has not progressed as the tenders have not been finalised," a top NTA official told *The Hindu*. If the tender had gone through, the NTA had aimed to conduct exams across India in a standardised format by establishing online exam centres without any possibility of malpractice, officials added.

Currently, the NTA conducts at least six of its entrance exams through the relatively safer online or computer-based test (CBT) mode. While the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-Main) is conducted by the NTA through the CBT mode, the National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) for medical aspirants is conducted in a pen-and-paper, or offline, mode. Offline tests are more vulnerable to paper leaks and other types of malpractice.

Currently, the NTA conducts at least six of its entrance exams through online or computer based test mode. PTI

According to official data, the NTA currently has the infrastructure capability for approximately 600 CBT examination centres across India. "It conducts CBT exams in multiple shifts with multiple sets of question papers owing to the limited infrastructure availability as per the defined standards for conducting online exams," another NTA official said.

**Boosting capacity**

"Currently, India does not have the capacity to conduct online exams for more than three lakh candidates in a single shift due to resource constraints," V. Kamakoti, Director of IIT-Madras, told *The Hindu*.

Aware of its restraints, the NTA had envisioned setting up more exam centres for online exams, first for 40,000 candidates per shift and then to increase the capacity to 2,00,000 candidates per shift, with a capacity of 275 computer nodes in each centre. Each node would seat one candidate.

This would mean gradually doubling the existing strength of 600 centres, by adding anywhere between 145 and 700 more centres. But the tender never took off, officials said.

"The NTA had planned to start with a provision of approximately 40,000 computer nodes per shift and will increase the nodes on mutual discussion or as per industry requirement. At present candidates from remote areas need to travel a long distance from their residence to reach the exam centres," the tender floated by the NTA said.

Multiple proposals to administer NEET-UG through online mode were sent to the Ministry of Education but in vain, officials at the NTA told *The Hindu*. "Talks for administering the NEET-UG in CBT mode, similar to JEE (Main), have been ongoing for at least five years now. The recent paper leak fiasco should serve as an eye-opener to change the format of the exams," an official quoted above said.

In the tender floated in January, the NTA had sought proposals from profitable private companies or central PSUs, who have had an average annual turnover of ₹100 crore for the last five years, and who have handled projects ranging from ₹20 crore to ₹40 crore, to bid for setting up and maintaining online exam centres.

In the tender, the NTA said that it wanted to set up this infrastructure in private and government higher education institutions and schools, government and semi-government buildings which would offer areas in their campuses for the development of new IT infrastructure by outsourcing it to a private company or a PSU.

**Outsourced centres**

The NTA wanted to outsource the work to bidders for end-to-end execution and running of online examination centres, including arranging infrastructure such as furniture, electrification, air-conditioning, power backup, network cabling, Internet with minimum 10 Mbps speed, CCTV, and even arrange a pool of invigilators which will be maintained by the bidders in individual cities.

The tender floated in January never took off, and is currently facing a delay of nearly six months. Had it been awarded, the NTA would have expected the online centres to be live and running within three months of awarding the contract. It had said that successful bidders were expected to run the online exam centres for five years.

## SUDOKU

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**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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# TISS terminates nearly 100 teaching, non-teaching staff across various campuses

**Maitri Porecha**
NEW DELHI

In what came as a shock to nearly 100 teaching and non-teaching staff on various campuses of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) across India, they were informed that their contracts will not be renewed and their services will end on Sunday. The TISS administration sent termination letters to the staff on June 28.

"Nearly a hundred institute staff members which were previously funded by the Tata Education Trust will become unemployed after years of service at TISS. It is completely a failure of the current leadership of TISS administration in running the institute and apathy of the Union government," said a statement by Progressive Students' Forum of TISS.

"After repeatedly targeting its students and curbing the campus democracy, the present TISS administration, under the BJP-led Union government, has unleashed an attack on its employees as well," the statement further said.

"As students, we express our concern about this decision. The previous years' NIRF data show that the student-faculty ratio is being impacted negatively. This means that the currently employed faculty is insufficient in terms of the number of students admitted to TISS each year," it said. While the termination of a hundred such positions will directly impact the futures of the students, it might also allow for politically motivated appointments in the near future, the students feared.

Last year, the BJP-led Centre took over TISS, making it a fully "public-funded institute".

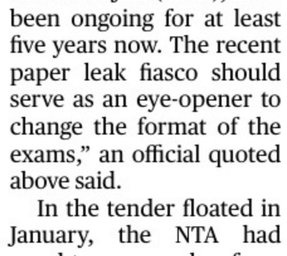
"The result has been that students are facing delays in receiving student aid and are being threatened in the name of fee payment. While becoming a public institute should have relieved the pressure from students coming from economically and socially marginalised backgrounds, the Central government takeover has resulted in added monetary pressures," the statement added.

# NCPCR to felicitate 30 district officials for containing drug abuse among school children

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) will felicitate 30 top performing districts in the country for the successful implementation of a Joint Action Plan to contain substance abuse among schoolchildren.

The recognition will be awarded here on Sunday to the respective District Magistrates and Collectors by Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai. The event will be held on the sidelines of a national review and consultation organised jointly by the NCPCR and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on the 'Joint Action Plan on Prevention of Drugs and Substance Abuse and Illicit Trafficking'.




A new portal called 'Prahari' (sentry) will also be launched by the Union MoS.

The Joint Action Plan (JAP) was developed by the NCPCR and the NCB based on deliberations with the Ministries concerned in 2021. It streamlines efforts made by different agencies to bring paradigm shifts in prevention.

Representatives of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights of States and Union Territories, as well the Departments of Women and Child Welfare, Health, Education, Police, Drugs Controller, Excise, Pharmacy Councils, and State AIDS Control Societies will participate in the consultation.

**New portal**

A new portal called '*Prahari*' (sentry) will also be launched by Mr. Rai. "Through this portal, quarterly activities for awareness on drugs and substance abuse in schools will be conducted by children and teachers nominated by special '*Prahari*' clubs," a senior official said. 'Prahari' clubs are associations managed and run by children to achieve common goals.

## INBRIEF

### FSIB recommends C.S. Setty for SBI Chairman's post

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended the appointment of Challa Sreenivasulu Setty for the post of Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI). Mr. Setty is now the senior most Managing Director heading Global Markets & Technology at India's largest bank. SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara's tenure ends in August. Mr. Setty will be the 27th Chairman of SBI, which came into existence on July 1, 1955 after taking over the business of Imperial Bank.

### Titan takes its jewellery brand Tanishq to Bangladesh

Titan Company said it was introducing its jewellery brand Tanishq in Bangladesh as part of expansion plans in the international market. On Friday, the Tata Group-managed firm signed a JV agreement to this effect with Rhythm Group which will make Tanishq available across the Bangladesh market, according to a joint statement. The joint venture will commence with the opening of the manufacturing facility in Narayanganj in Bangladesh, it added. PTI

### Agrawal named Central Board of Direct Taxes Chairman

The Centre on Saturday appointed Ravi Agrawal as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the top policy-making body of the Income Tax Department. As per the notification issued by the Personnel Ministry, Mr. Agrawal, a 1988 batch Income-Tax cadre Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, has been appointed as the Chairman from July 1 till superannuation on September 30 and subsequently on contract basis till June 30, 2025.

# Synergy in data must for 'coherent' policy decisions: NSC chief

Correlating data such as GST and export-import figures flagged as an example by the National Statistical Commission chairman Karandikar

**Vikas Dhoot**
NEW DELHI

**Data talk:** NSC chief Karandikar says data must 'talk to each other' to make it useful for nationwide policy making. MOSPI

India's apex autonomous statistics body's chief on Sunday underlined the imperative to harmonise the collection and dissemination of data by various government departments to make policy decisions more informed and "efficient", stressing that it was tough to correlate economic data such as indirect tax collections and export-import figures in the current system.

"There are so many entities in the national as well as State governments that are collecting and using data in their own way," National Statistical Commission chairman Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar observed. "Some of it is made available to public, some is not. Even when made available to public, the data doesn't talk to each other," he added.

"I am not talking in terms of a text file versus PDF, but in terms of the way a table is made, or let's say, the code," he said. Citing the example of Goods and Services Tax (GST) numbers and foreign trade data, he said they used different codes. "Therefore, if you want to do some analysis which involves both these data, it is very difficult to put it together and make some coherent decision based on that," he explained.

Mr. Karandikar emphasised the need of "interoperability and linking of databases generated by various agencies" at an event to mark Statistics Day, in honour of the birth anniversary of Prasanta Chandra Mahalonobis, widely regarded as the Father of Indian Statistics.

"The decision is not just going to be based only on the GST data, you have to merge it with various other things, and only then that will be useful," he noted.

"Our goal is to make efficient decisions for the large masses and we can use all that is happening in the best possible way. We can talk to others in the government and try to come up with this plan of integrating various datasets so that it can be best used," Mr. Karandikar said, suggesting that such harmonisation could begin with Central government departments and then the States could be roped in.

**'Form expert group'**

Conceding people's concerns about privacy with such data, the NSC chief said thought needed to be given as to what part of the data could be released "at least to decision-makers".

"There is a strong need to create... an expert group that involves all stakeholders, which will look at these issues and try to come out with common codes and ways of data collection and dissemination, so that the best use of data can be made in times to come," he underlined.

# Steel Ministry raises alarm on Chinese imports, urges trade curbs

**Abhishek Law**
NEW DELHI

India's Steel Ministry has initiated discussions with the Ministry of Commerce on curbing an influx of cheap Chinese imports of the metal, a senior official aware of the discussions said. A probe into imports from Vietnam is also being considered.

The discussions come amid persistent calls for higher tariffs from producers even as India turns a net importer. According to the Ministry official, industry has also sought an investigation into steel shipments coming in through Vietnam. Preliminary discussions suggest a good portion of low-cost imports from China are being routed into India through Vietnamese traders.

"We have monitored the rise in imports, and have alerted the concerned ministry, in this case the Commerce Ministry. Discussions with them (Commerce Ministry) are underway to take necessary steps," the official told *businessline*.

The Steel Ministry official said demand continues to be depressed in China while there have not been any production cuts in the region. Prices remain depressed, resulting in excess stock being exported across Asian and Latin American nations, "sometimes at less than cost price", the official noted.

*(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)*

# Collate finance panels' data in one place: Panagariya

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Arvind Panagariya

Sixteenth Finance Commission chairperson Arvind Panagariya on Sunday mooted compiling data generated by all the Finance Commissions in one place, noting that a lot of statistics were generated by the constitutional body appointed every five years, which could come in handy in the future.

"Finance Commissions are appointed every five years and remain in office for a couple of years. And each Finance Commission collects its own data, but there is no permanent home for this data. So each Commission goes out, then the next one comes in and starts gathering data all over again," Mr. Panagariya lamented.

Speaking at a Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) event to mark Statistics Day, he reckoned that at the end of a Finance Commission's tenure, all its members and staff "really leave with lots of Excel files that most likely remain on their computers".

"So I think... it's not necessary that the MoSPI has to do it, but somebody ought to take some sort of a lead in creating a home for these data on a permanent basis. So that the work of the Commission actually will certainly get much smoothened out, for at least in the future," Mr. Panagariya said. This could be done through a single portal to host these data sets, he suggested.

The first vice chairman of Niti Aayog, now in charge of the Commission to recommend the revenue-sharing formula between the Centre and States for the five-year period starting April 1, 2026, said data, and their analysis were critical to conceive and implement good economic policies.

"The challenge is to produce authentic, robust and accurate statistics to cope with the huge demand for information that is now almost universally accessible. The need of the hour is to ensure the availability of accurate data so these can be appropriately fed into the decision-making processes," aided by technology, Mr. Panagariya noted.

With India now becoming a member of the United Nations Statistical Commission, he said it had a responsibility to contribute to the standard-setting agenda for global statistical systems, while making the Indian statistical system more robust.

# Interest equalisation scheme extended for MSME exporters

**The Hindu Bureau**
COIMBATORE

The Department of Commerce has extended the Interest Equalisation Scheme for pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit for Micro, Small and Medium-scale (MSME) exporters till August 31.

According to a Department trade notice, the outlay for the extended period is ₹750 crore. The extension is not applicable for non-MSME exporters beyond June 30.

The scheme's terms will remain the same.

Sudhir Sekhri, chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), said the extension of the scheme will benefit the labour-intensive garment sector, which largely has MSME units. The garment exporters are grappling with high interest costs, he said. But, there should be stability and predictability in the policy regime. The policies and schemes should stay for at least a period of five years.

# Vietnam's Q2 GDP growth accelerates to 6.93%, led by exports

**Reuters**
HANOI

**The economy expanded 6.42% in the first half of this year, the General Statistics Office said**

Vietnam's economic growth accelerated in the second quarter on robust exports, government data showed on Saturday, but rising inflation remained a challenge for the Southeast Asian country.

Gross domestic product is estimated to have expanded by 6.93% in the second quarter from a year earlier, faster than 5.87% in the first quarter, the government's General Statistics Office (GSO) said.

The economy expanded 6.42% in the first half of this year, the GSO added.

Vietnam, a key exporter of smartphones, electronics and garments, is seeking to shore up business activity after missing last year's growth target due to weak global demand and power shortages.

"Vietnam's socio-economic situation continues a positive trend, with each quarter being better than the previous one," the GSO said in a statement.

# Merge RRBs with sponsor banks, say 2 bank unions

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

Two major bank unions have sought the merger of 43 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) with 12 scheduled commercial banks (sponsor banks) for improving operational efficiency and viability of the sector.

Competition among PSBs and RRBs are leading to a waste of scarce financial resources for offering the same type of services to few select customers in rural areas, officials of the All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) and the All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) said in a statement issued on Thursday.

# Vermeiren India chalks out ₹100 crore expansion plans

**N. Anand**
CHENNAI

Belgium wheelchair maker Vermeiren India Rehab Pvt. Ltd., has commenced a ₹100 crore expansion-cum-diversification project at its Sri City SEZ unit, said a top executive.

"This is our fourth expansion in eight years," MD Syed Riaz Qadr said during an interaction.

The firm would more than double its monthly production capacity of wheelchairs and commode chairs from 18,000 to 50,000, he said. Besides, it would expand its portfolio with walkers, rollators and patient beds.

"Initially, we said we can produce one lakh wheelchairs per annum. We are doing more than two lakh and plans are on to produce six lakhs units annually. Four more types of commode chairs will be rolled out, taking the total to six," he said.

Begun with a 9-acre facility in 2016, the firm added eight acres two years ago and another 15 recently. About 70% of the expansion cost would be funded by the parent firm and the balance through borrowings.

"We commenced production of wheelchairs with eight lines and 10 more are going to be added. The new lines will go on stream from December 2025," he said.

Mr. Qadr said walkers, rollators and patient beds would be made beginning May 2025. He added they planned to produce 1,000 patient beds per month and 5,000 units of walkers and rollators collectively.

On exports, he said 95% of volume went to Europe, West Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Singapore and Malaysia would be added soon.

In FY24, the firm logged revenue of ₹180 crore.

**MYSORE MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MYSURU**
(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka)
Irvin Road, Mysuru-570 001, **Ph:** +91-0821-2520512 (Off.)
**Email:** mmcrimysore@yahoo.com, **Website:** www.mmcri.karnataka.gov.in
**No.** Equipment/TCC/04/2024-25 **Date :** 27.06.2024
**TENDER NOTIFICATION** (e-Procurement mode only )
**Sub : Invitation of Tender for the supply of various equipments to the Trauma Care Centre Hospital, MMC & RI, Mysuru.**
The Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for the supply of various equipments to the Trauma Care Centre Hospital, MMC & RI, Mysuru. The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **03.07.2024** and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is **02.08.2024 upto 5.00 PM.** Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected.
If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.
**Sd/-**
**Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru.**
DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/191/2022-23

**DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES**
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.
**No: DOM/EW/CLAT/CA FOUNDATION/CR-06/2023-24 Date: 29.06.2024**
**Announcement of Tender**
Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minority for Training to Minority Residential PU College Students for **CLAT/CA FOUNDATION** for the year 2024-25. Details are given below. Interested bidders should apply through online mode under e-Procurement portal.

| Sl. No. | Details | Date/Time |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Date of Tender Publication | **29.06.2024.** |
| 2. | Tender Amount: | **Rs. 500.00 Lakhs.** |
| 3. | EMD Amount: | **Rs.7.50 Lakhs.** |
| 4. | Pre-bid meeting: | **08.07.2024 at 3.00 p.m.** |
| 5. | Last date and time for submission of tender: | **29.07.2024 by 5:30 p.m.** |
| 6. | Date and time of Technical bid opening: | **31.07.2024 at 11:30 a.m.** |
| 7. | Date and time of Financial bid opening: | **03.08.2024 at 11:30 a.m. (Tentative)** |
| 8. | Place of tender opening and contact address: | Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052. |
| 9. | Telephone No. to be contacted | **080-22535902/ 080-22535912.** |

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka. gov.in** and e-Procurement website at **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in**
**Sd/-**
**Director**
DIPR/CP/698/24-25 **Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru**

**Government of Karnataka**
**Sub Divisional Hospital, Sagar**
No.: SDHS/P.F.S.T./33/2024-25 Date: 28.06.2024
**e-Tender Notice Regarding Supply of prepared Diet Food**
e-Tender was invited through e-procurement as per two tender document system from eligible firms for availing prepared Diet Food for Sub Divisional Hospital, Sagar and Mother and Children Hospital, Sagar and was informed to upload the rates from 27.06.2024. But due to technical reasons Tender could not be uploaded. Therefore e-Tender is postponed and further date will be informed shortly.
**Sd/- Administrative Medical Officer, Sub Divisional Hospital, Sagar**
DIPR/smg/No.142/06/24-25/KSMCA/SMG/177

**BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.
**No: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-2/05/2024-25 Dated: 29-06-2024**
**KPP PORTAL TENDER NOTIFICATION**
Tenders are invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, in Two Cover System for Approved Action Plan Works under Deposit Contribution Head of Account 2023-24. The work details can be obtained from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 18-07-2024 upto 4.00 PM.** Further details can be obtained from Website at **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.
**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.**
DIPR/CP/684/ Adverto/2024-25

**Government Of Karnataka**
**Office of the Joint Director Social Welfare Department Belagavi**
Tender No:JDSWD/EST/CR-09/2024-25 Date:26/06/2024
**(e-Procurment Tender Announcement)**
Out source staff tender through e- procurement is here by invited for the supply of C and D group staffs for Ofiices and departmental Student Hostels/Residentail Shools/Sainik Training School/ Refugee relief centre, which comes under social welfare Department, for the period of one year from the date of assignment or till further orders.
Eligible tenderers/Firms can submit their filled tenders as per the tender conditions.The tenders shall be submitted only through the e-procurment portal of the Government of Karnataka at http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in as per the schedule laid down below.
**Tender Schedule**
1:Last Date to submit the tender through e-procurment: Date: 24/07/2024 5.30 PM through http:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in online, 2:Date and time of opening of technical bid on e-portal:Date:26/07/2024 11:00 AM (Subject to change), 3:Tender Amount: Rs.612.73 Lakhs, 3:E.M.D Amount: Rs.9.20 Lakhs,4:Date and time of opening of Financial bid on e-portal:Date:30/07/2024 11:00 AM (Subject to change), 5:Contact details of the office for further details regarding e-tender:Office of the Joint Director, Social welfare Department, Nehru Nagar, Belagavi. Tel:0831-2407245,
For more details can be obtained from the web site http://kppp. karnataka. gov.in online.
**Sd/-Joint Director**
**Social Welfare Department Belagavi**
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-233/KSMCA/2024-25

# Specific PET scan for TB for more effective treatment

**The Hindu Bureau**

A more accurate way to scan for tuberculosis has been developed by researcher based in the U.K. and the U.S. using positron emission tomography (PET).

The team has developed a new radiotracer, which is taken up by live TB bacteria in the body. Radiotracers are radioactive compounds which give off radiation that can be detected by scanners and turned into a 3D image. The new radiotracer, called FDT, enables PET scans to be used for the first time to accurately pinpoint when and where the disease is still active in a patient's lungs.

The researchers have put the new radiotracer through extensive pre-clinical trials with no adverse effects and it is now ready to go into Phase I trials in humans. The study has been published in the journal *Nature Communications*.

Currently, two methods exist for TB diagnosis: testing for the TB bacteria in a patient's sputum using smear microscopy or a molecular test. The other is the use of a PET scan to look for signs of inflammation in the lung, using the common radiotracer FDG.

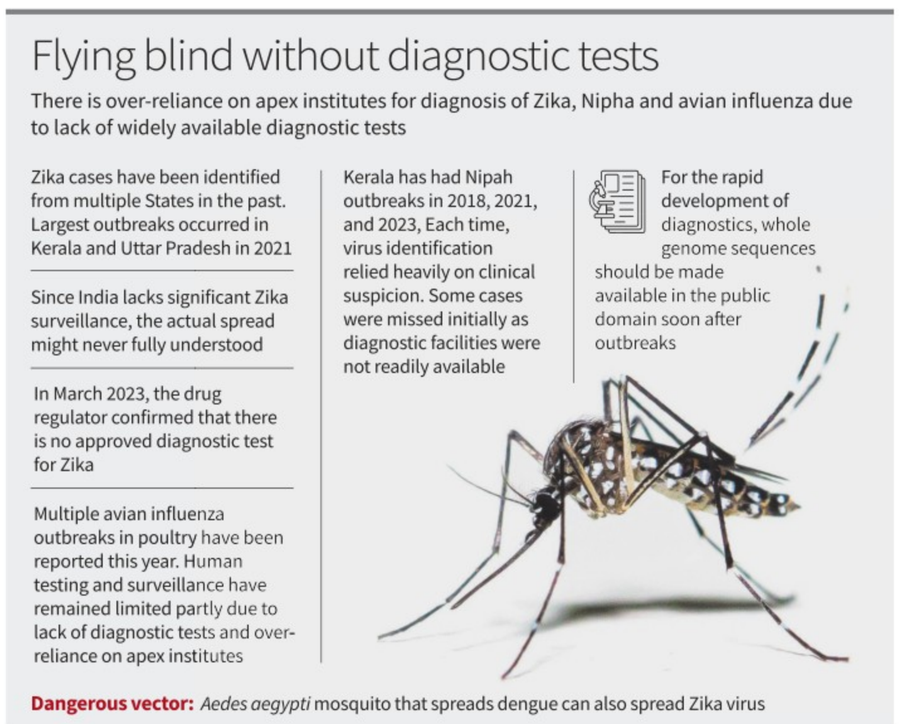
While a sputum test can show a negative long before the disease has been fully treated in the lungs, which could result in patients finishing treatment too early, scanning for inflammation can be helpful in seeing the extent of the disease, but it is not specific to TB, as inflammation can be caused by other conditions. Inflammation can also persist in the lung after the TB bacteria has been eliminated, leading to treatment continuing longer than necessary.

The new approach developed by the researchers is more specific as it uses a carbohydrate that is only processed by the TB bacteria. A key advantage of the new approach is that it only requires a hospital to have standard radiation control and PET scanners, which are becoming more available throughout the world. The new molecule is created from FDG using a simple process involving enzymes developed by the research team. This means it can be produced without specialist expertise or laboratories and so would be a viable option in low- and middle-income countries with less developed healthcare systems. These countries currently see over 80% of global TB cases and deaths from the disease.

# India lacks diagnostic tests for emerging infectious diseases

Zika virus is a mosquito-borne pathogen belonging to the flavivirus family of viruses which also includes dengue; India's lack of significant Zika surveillance means we might never fully understand its spread

**Bani Jolly**
**Vinod Scaria**




A recent case of Zika virus infection in Pune has renewed concerns about India's preparedness for diagnosing emerging infectious diseases. After experiencing symptoms like fever and rashes, the 46-year-old doctor was hospitalised and diagnosed with Zika virus infection after his samples were sent for testing to the apex virology institute. Subsequent testing of his family members revealed that his 15-year-old daughter was also infected. This is not the first time Zika has been identified in India. Cases have been identified in multiple States in India in the past, with larger outbreaks occurring in Kerala and Uttar Pradesh as recently as 2021.

Zika virus is a mosquito-borne pathogen belonging to the flavivirus family of viruses which also includes dengue. Clinical symptoms of Zika infection in many cases could be mild and indistinguishable from other infectious diseases including dengue. However, for pregnant women, the Zika virus poses a significant risk as it can be transmitted from mother to child, potentially leading to microcephaly in the offspring.

Due to climate change, it is not surprising that multiple dengue outbreaks are making headlines. The same vectors that spread dengue could also spread Zika. However, India's lack of significant Zika surveillance means we might never fully understand its spread. In March 2023, CDSCO, India's apex organisation for diagnostic approvals, confirmed that there is no approved diagnostic test for Zika. This limitation hinders our ability to diagnose Zika, relying only on classical symptoms and high clinical suspicion, making it complex as we see a concurrent upsurge in dengue cases across the country. Surveillance by ICMR on Aedes mosquitoes showed Zika virus positivity following human cases, indicating that many cases are likely being missed. Zika is not an isolated case. A case of avian influenza A/H5N1 was recently reported from Australia in a child who had traveled to India, hinting at more undetected infections. Despite multiple avian influenza outbreaks in India this year affecting poultry, and an ongoing outbreak in Kerala, human testing and surveillance have remained limited. This is partially compounded by the lack of widely available diagnostic tests and over-reliance on a few apex institutes.

Consider the case of the Nipah virus, which has seen multiple outbreaks in Kerala. India has experienced several Nipah virus outbreaks, notably in West Bengal (2001 and 2007) and Kerala (2018, 2021, and 2023). In Kerala, identification of the virus relied heavily on clinical suspicion. Some cases were indeed missed during initial admissions due to the lack of routine testing. Rapid identification and isolation of cases, contact tracing, and targeted screening of contacts are key to the effective containment of Nipah outbreaks.

While many countries grant emergency approvals for diagnostics based on synthetic genomic material, India requires validation on clinical samples, which are not readily accessible. These limitations hamper rapid development. Although there have been multiple publications on Zika and Nipah outbreaks over many years now, the genomes from these outbreaks are still not rapidly released in public repositories. For example, the Nipah virus genome from the 2023 outbreak in Kerala was only released last month. Even with ongoing avian influenza outbreaks in multiple States, we do not yet have the whole genome sequences available in GISAID, the primary repository for influenza sequences, hampering our understanding of the disease and spread and more importantly, our ability to rapidly develop and deploy diagnostics.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, India swiftly expanded its testing infrastructure by rapidly decentralising and leveraging the existing network of hospitals, medical colleges, and private laboratories nationwide and tapping into the industry with a systematic approach for approvals of diagnostic tests making diagnostics widely available and accessible. The experience gained from the COVID-19 pandemic can be a stepping stone for improving testing capacities for other emerging diseases.

By decentralising testing facilities particularly at the district and sub-district levels, and developing accessible and affordable diagnostic tests for Zika, Nipah, avian influenza, and many more emerging infectious diseases, India can ensure a more effective response to future outbreaks. There has never been a better time to swiftly establish a decentralised system for diagnostics, genomic surveillance, and data sharing to enable preparedness and public health response to emerging infectious diseases.

(*Bani Jolly is a senior scientist at Karkinos Healthcare, and Vinod Scaria is a senior consultant at Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation and Adjunct Professor at IIT Kanpur and DY Patil Vidyapeeth*)

# inStem's fabric offers protection from pesticides

**R. Prasad**

Researchers at the Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem), in Bengaluru have developed an anti-insecticide fabric that effectively neutralises organophosphate-based pesticides. In an earlier work published about six years ago, the team had developed a gel for topical dermal application to deactivate the pesticides. But considering that compliance might be poor, the researchers looked at another alternative that is as effective in deactivating the insecticide but at the same time does not reduce compliance.

When esters present in organophosphate-based pesticides enter the body they bind and inhibit an enzyme (acetylcholinesterase or AChE) critical for neuromuscular function from working. Therefore, inhibition of this important enzyme is implicated in learning deficits, suffocation, paralysis, muscle weakness among others.

In a paper published recently in *Nature Communications*, the team led by Dr. Praveen Kumar Vemula from inStem coated the cotton fabric with small molecules, rendering the final product the ability to deactivate the insecticide. "The small molecules are covalently bonded with the cellulose of the fabric making the cloth not only breathable but also durable," says Dr. Vemula. The small molecules that are covalently bonded with the fabric are nucleophile in nature, and can detoxify the pesticides upon contact through nucleophile-mediated hydrolysis, says Dr. Vemula. "The fabric attacks the pesticide molecule and breaks it into non-toxic products. The pesticide is deactivated even before it reaches the skin surface," he says. The fabric with covalently-bonded small molecules was developed in collaboration with Sepio Health Pvt Ltd, a spin-off company from inStem.

**Right way:** The fabric deactivates the pesticide and breaks it down into non-toxic products. AP

"The fabric retains the anti-insecticide property even after washing 150 times." Though the reusability after 50 cycles was reported in the paper, the researchers continued the reusability testing and found the effectiveness to last up to 150 cycles of washing. "Unlike the gel, the reusability will make the fabric an affordable solution to prevent insecticide-induced toxicity to farmers. It will also increase compliance," he says.

According to Dr, Vemula, the small molecule-coated fabric does not act as a physical barrier to organophosphate-based insecticide. Instead, the fabric hydrolytically deactivates the insecticides, causing the prevention of insecticide-induced AChE inhibition.

To investigate the efficiency of the fabric containing the small molecules, the active AChE in the blood before and three days after exposure to the insecticide was measured in rats. While direct exposure or when normal cloth did little to halt the drop in active AChE in blood, no reduction in blood active AchE level was observed in the presence of the fabric coated with small molecules. Several organs from the exposed and unexposed rats were studied and compared, and the researchers found that the active AChE levels in the organs did not drop in the case of rats that were exposed to the insecticide in the presence of the fabric coated with small molecules. Also, while rats that were repeatedly and directly exposed to ethyl paraoxon (an activated organophosphate insecticide) or through the normal fabric died within four days, none of the rats exposed to the insecticide in the presence of the special fabric died.

Farmers get repeatedly exposed to the insecticide due to frequent usage, and this can cause chronic toxicity and severe adverse health effects. The animal study results show promise that the fabric containing the small molecules can prevent chronic toxicity in farmers, he says.

"The design of one nucleophile that can deactivate a wide range of organophosphates and carbamates was challenging. Subsequently, optimising the industry-friendly chemistry to covalently attach on the fabric was the key in developing anti-pesticide fabric," says Dr. Ketan Thorat, a former research student at inStem and coauthor of the paper.

## SNAPSHOTS

### Anti-measles antibody prevents viral fusion: study

Cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) structures of an anti-measles antibody reveal its therapeutic potential by blocking the virus's fusion process, a new study reports. The work paves the way for the next generation of measles virus therapeutics and illuminates a mechanism that may be shared by antibodies against other viral pathogens. The structures generated by the researchers also revealed an important epitope that may provide a new druggable target for MeV as well as other paramyxoviruses like mumps.

### Proteins in cerebrospinal fluid offer markers of Alzheimer's

By mapping out the landscape of proteins in cerebrospinal fluid, researchers have discovered potential markers of Alzheimer's disease that appear as many as 20 years before symptoms. The scientists generated a robust map of protein activity, consisting of 34 "modules". They identified three that correlated with disease and with the genetic risk factor APOE-e4. Also, shifts in these modules in blood samples were linked to a risk of dementia more than 20 years before the patient was diagnosed.

### Antibody shields hamsters from SARS-CoV-2 variants

Scientists show that a new antibody therapy for COVID-19 can neutralise the Omicron strain of SARS-CoV-2 in hamsters and is safe in humans, according to their research. The antibody (AZD3152) could provide an additional layer of protection to vulnerable groups at risk of severe COVID-19. The antibody binds to the back "left shoulder" of the receptor binding domain on the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, and is designed to be more potent against emerging variants.

## Question Corner

# Marsquakes

**Can meteorite strikes cause quakes on Mars?**

Using seismic data, researchers have derived the first estimate of global meteorite impacts on Mars. Their findings indicate that 280 to 360 meteorites strike the planet each year, forming impact craters greater than 26 feet across. Using data from the seismometer deployed during the NASA InSight Mission to Mars, researchers found that six seismic events recorded near the station had been previously identified as meteoric impacts. Now, researchers have found that these six seismic events belong to a much larger group of marsquakes, so called very high frequency events. The source process of these quakes occurs much faster than for a tectonic marsquake of similar size. Where a normal magnitude 3-quake on Mars takes several seconds, an impact-generated event of the same size takes only 0.2 seconds or less, due to the hypervelocity of the collision. By analysing marsquake spectra, a further 80 marsquakes were identified that are now thought to be caused by meteoroid strikes.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

# FAQ

## What was the tussle over Covaxin IPR?

What are the rules for patenting the intellectual property rights of a vaccine? Why was the ICMR not included?

**Jacob Koshy**

**The story so far:**

The maker of the indigenous coronavirus vaccine, Covaxin, Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL), has admitted to an "inadvertent error" in patent filings to protect the vaccine's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). One of India's leading biotechnology companies, it had failed to include scientists from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) as co-inventors in the Covaxin patent filings.

### What kind of rights govern vaccine patents?

India's patent laws govern both product and process patents. Product patents grant an inventor a monopoly over, say, a drug. Process patents bar competitors from making a similar drug using the same sequence of steps. In response to queries from *The Hindu*, Bharat Biotech said it had patented the process, namely of making a batch of vaccines from the virus strains that were provided by the ICMR-NIV (National Institute of Virology). This is the lab that has expertise in extracting viruses from blood samples, identifying its characteristics, conducting various tests to gauge its infectiousness and qualify it in comparison to related strains. However, preparing a vaccine out of this at an industrial scale is beyond the capabilities of a lab and requires a different order of facilities that only established vaccine manufacturers have. Covaxin is an inactivated version of COVID-causing coronavirus; once injected into the body it coaxes it into producing antibodies that can potentially protect against severe disease from a coronavirus infection. To do this effectively, an 'adjuvant' is added which increases the vaccine's potency. Vaccine makers may have their own ways of bringing all of these steps together and, given the competitive nature of the field, strive to ward off competitors from imitating these processes to gain a temporary monopoly in the market and rake profits.

> Bharat Biotech International Limited had collaborated with the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology for all the steps in developing a vaccine

To be sure, while companies are free to file for a product or process patent in as many countries as they can afford, a patent is only granted after regulatory authorities grant them one or are convinced that this process is indeed novel or inventive. BBIL, as far is publicly known, hasn't yet been granted these patents.

### What were the roles of BBIL and ICMR?

BBIL had collaborated with the ICMR-NIV for all the steps in developing a vaccine. The two organisations had signed an agreement that spelt out each entity's responsibilities. As ICMR is a public entity and because of the scale of the COVID crisis, there were Right To Information requests to make this agreement public. However, it was only in July 2021, that parts of the agreement were made public in Rajya Sabha.

Beyond transferring the strains and making vaccines, the agreement said, ICMR would also test these vaccines on animals – rodents to monkeys – and then on people to establish that the vaccine worked as intended. The ICMR also funded these clinical trials – ₹35 crore – and incurred costs in developing Covaxin. In return it was to get 5% of royalties that BBIL earned from the sale of Covaxin. Since the announcement of the BBIL and ICMR collaboration, it was generally accepted that both entities would contribute to the vaccine and would therefore hold "joint intellectual property rights," as was stated in Parliament.

However, BBIL first told *The Hindu* that it made a distinction between the rights governing the making of the vaccine and the rights over the data generated from clinical trials. The ICMR hadn't invested in the actual making of the vaccine and so wasn't included in patent applications. However, a day after the matter became public, BBIL said it had made a mistake, and that it would be making amends by filing fresh applications that listed ICMR personnel as inventors. It is unclear what prompted this.

### Why does being cited as an inventor matter?

IPR is a vast, complex domain and spans the minutest parts of the product invention process. As the development of pharmaceutical products involves a wide range of expertise, it is hard for single firms or entities to develop everything in-house. Just like the BBIL-ICMR collaboration, companies may enter into several licensing agreements – BBIL for instance had a technology licensing agreement with Virovax for the adjuvant – with other companies. If a single product thus involves multiple entities and collaborators, being listed as an inventor has a bearing on the sharing of intellectual property rights, royalties and even determining how a product can be used. There is no field of human activity that is untouched by disputes over IPR. In patent filings, not listing out all the inventors – in the U.S especially – could even lead to patent applications being rejected.

## Why has the NTA failed to deliver?

How many examinations are under the charge of the National Testing Agency? Is it equipped to handle the large number of students and centres? What are the challenges? What are the loopholes in the system that can be manipulated by unscrupulous players?

**Priscilla Jebaraj**

**The story so far:**

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has come under intense fire over the past few weeks, with widespread allegations of cheating, paper leaks and other irregularities impacting flagship examinations such as the NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) for undergraduate medical college admissions and the UGC-NET for Ph.D and assistant professor appointments. The agency's director general, Subodh Kumar Singh, has been removed, the CBI is probing irregularities, and a high-level panel has been set up to create a roadmap for a systemic overhaul.

### What is the NTA?

The NTA was set up in 2017 as a specialist, self-sustaining and autonomous organisation under the aegis of the Union Education Ministry. Its director general and governing body are appointed by the Union government. However, it is registered as a society and is a separate legal entity, which raises questions about the government's legal liability for the NTA's actions. Its main mandate is to conduct efficient, transparent and international standard tests to assess the competency of candidates for admission, and recruitment purposes. Soon after it was established, the NTA took over the conduct of major all-India examinations, such as the JEE for engineering college admissions, NEET-UG, and UGC-NET (both of which had previously been conducted by the Central Board for Secondary Education or CBSE), as well as the entrance tests for Jawaharlal Nehru University and Delhi University. The National Education Policy of 2020 envisaged a broader role, recommending that the NTA conduct an entrance or aptitude test for all universities across the country. In all, the NTA now has charge for more than 20 examinations.

> Educationists propose broader pathways like equipping NTA better or dismantling the centralisation process

**Outrage and uproar:** Members of the Students' Federation of India staging a protest in Vijayawada on June 22. G.N. RAO

### Why have there been so many problems?

One of the main problems is that the NTA was originally intended to conduct computer-based tests only. "This will ensure that high volume can be processed in a short period of time," says the agency's website, claiming that such online testing will "eliminate the possibility of leakage of questions and question papers, post-test malpractice of filling in the OMR sheets, late entry of students to cheat in the test, subjectivity errors on descriptive testing, etc...In a short period of three years, all the tests administered by NTA will be computer adaptive. This will completely eliminate the problem of cheating," it declares. Thus, when the NTA took over conduct of the UGC-NET examination from the CBSE six years ago, it was converted from a pen-and-paper examination to a computer-adaptive test. This year, however, for reasons that are unclear, UGC-NET shifted back to the pen-and-paper mode. The day after it was conducted for over 11 lakh aspirants, the government cancelled the examination, citing inputs from the cyber crime unit.

"Pen-and-paper is a heaven for scamsters," said one former official, noting that the printing process is particularly vulnerable to leaks. It is interesting that when the government announced fresh dates for UGC-NET 2024 to be held again, it also stipulated that it would be a computer-adaptive test this time.

However, when the conduct of NEET-UG was taken over by the NTA, the Health Ministry flatly refused to allow it to shift to a computer-based exam, citing concerns about students in rural areas who would not be prepared for an online exam, as well as Supreme Court rulings on how the examination should be conducted. Hence, the NTA has been forced to run a major examination in a mode that it was never intended to implement by design.

Officials and educationists note that the agency is severely understaffed for the role it is currently being asked to undertake. According to a senior official, the agency was set up with only about 25 permanent staff positions. A number of its functions have also been outsourced to technical partners from the very beginning. Given that NEET-UG alone had more than 23 lakh candidates writing the examination in almost 5,000 centres across the country and abroad, this has left the agency stretched thin, according to some officials. "The NTA was set up to be a lean, professional organisation. The more people, the higher risks. The NIC [National Informatics Centre] simply does not have the capacity or IT infrastructure needed, so it was always meant to engage third-party technical partners which have the robust cyber security expertise needed to run large-scale computer based examinations," said R. Subrahmanyam, former Higher Education Secretary who was in charge at the time the NTA was set up. However, some educationists have complained that engaging third-party players takes accountability out of the government's hands and leaves loopholes in the system which can be exploited by unscrupulous players.

Officials say the NTA has also failed to develop robust mechanisms needed to handle a large-scale pen-and-paper examination, including the setting of the question paper and its encryption, selection of external printing presses and exam centres, transportation to printing presses, storage and distribution to examinees at examination centres and then the collection and transportation of answer sheets to evaluation centres. Each of these is a stage where malpractice can occur without robust security mechanisms.

### What is the way ahead?

The high-level panel headed by former ISRO chief K. Radhakrishnan has been given two months to recommend reforms in the examination process, improve data security protocols, and overhaul the NTA's functioning.

Educationists, however, propose starkly different pathways for the future. One option is to add manpower and infrastructure to the NTA to equip it to take on large-scale pen-and-paper examinations in an improvement to the CBSE system that preceded it. Those recommending this return to the past point out that pen-and-paper examinations are more equitable, especially for students in rural and remote areas with little access to technology.

Another option is to dismantle the centralisation process that seeks to move all testing in the country under the NTA. Some State governments, and professors from individual universities, notably JNU, have called for entrance tests for their institutions to be removed from the NTA and handed back to the institutions themselves, arguing that more decentralised structures are needed to meet the vastly differing needs of institutions.

However, others seek a more radical reform of the assessment system. They suggest systemic changes to remove the single, high-stakes entrance examination which results in extreme pressure on students, encourages an inequitable coaching industry, and incentivises malpractice. Instead, periodic assessments of knowledge, concept-based understanding, and aptitude can be conducted in the final years of school education as the precursor to the admission process, using online testing, and AI-based proctoring which can be overseen by the NTA.

## What is holding up the Teesta treaty?

What has the Indian government told Bangladesh? What is the technical team going to look into? Why is Bengal Chief Minister protesting this development? What about the Ganga water sharing agreement? When does it come up for renewal? What is the state of both the rivers?

**Shiv Sahay Singh**

**The story so far:**

During the recent state visit of Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, to India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 22 said: "A technical team will soon visit Bangladesh to discuss conservation and management of the Teesta river in Bangladesh." The remark triggered fresh speculation about the Teesta water sharing treaty with Bangladesh, a key bilateral agreement that has been pending between the two countries for over a decade.

### What is India's stand?

After Mr. Modi's comment, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra told the media that the discussion "between the two leaders was less about water sharing per se, and more about the management of the water flows within Teesta". West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took issue with the Centre's stand. On June 24, she wrote a letter to Mr. Modi conveying her strong reservation that no discussion on the sharing of Teesta waters should be taken up with Bangladesh without the involvement of the State.

### Why is Bengal upset?

Ms. Banerjee pointed out that if Teesta's water is shared with Bangladesh, lakhs of people in north Bengal will get severely impacted. This is not the first time she has voiced her opposition to the proposed water sharing agreement of India with Bangladesh. In July 2019, the Trinamool Congress chairperson admitted that Bangladesh is hurt because the Teesta waters could not be shared and added, "If I had the ability, I would have definitely shared Teesta waters with them." In 2017, the Chief Minister had also referred to an alternative proposal of sharing waters of the Torsa, Manshai, Sankosh and Dhansai rivers but not Teesta.

> Bengal claims if Teesta water is shared with Bangladesh, lakhs of people in north Bengal will get severely impacted

In all, 54 rivers flow between India and Bangladesh and sharing of river waters has been a key bilateral issue. India and Bangladesh agreed on the sharing of waters of the Ganga in 1996 after the construction of the Farakka Barrage and by the 2010s the issue of sharing of the Teesta came up for negotiation. In 2011, during the United Progressive Alliance-II government, India and Bangladesh were close to signing an agreement on the Teesta but Ms. Banerjee walked out of the deal, and since then, the agreement has been pending.

**Extreme weather:** The flooded bank of the Teesta river following heavy downpour, in Siliguri, West Bengal, on June 14. PTI

### What is the proposal?

In 2011, when the proposal for sharing Teesta water was drawn up, it was said India would get 42.5% and Bangladesh 37.5% of the river water from December to March.

A tributary of the Brahmaputra, the Teesta river originates from the Tso Lhamo Lake at an elevation of about 5,280 metres in north Sikkim. The river travels for about 150 km in Sikkim and 123 km in West Bengal, before entering Bangladesh from Mekhligunj in Cooch Behar district; it flows another 140 km in Bangladesh and joins the Bay of Bengal. Teesta is Bangladesh's fourth largest trans-boundary river and its floodplain covers an area of 2,750 square kilometres in Bangladesh. But 83% of the river's catchment area lies in India and the remaining 17% is in Bangladesh, supporting 8.5% of its population and 14% of its crop production.

### What are the political considerations?

While the Awami League government in Bangladesh is facing questions from the Opposition about the delay in inking an agreement on the Teesta, the dams for hydro-electric power generation in Sikkim and the Teesta Barrage Project at Gazoldoba in West Bengal is making the flow of the river erratic in Bangladesh, leading to either floods or scarcity of water. The visit of a technical team from India to discuss conservation of the Teesta in Bangladesh also comes amid the backdrop of China proposing major dredging work on the river and building reservoirs and embankments in 2020. The Bangladesh government has put the proposal on hold for the past four years.

Soon after returning to Bangladesh, Prime Minister Hasina announced that her country would accept India's proposal to develop the Teesta River basin. Ms. Banerjee raised questions about the health of the Teesta river after the construction of a series of hydropower projects in Sikkim, deforestation in upper catchment areas and impact of climate change. She expressed surprise that no concrete steps have been taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to restore the river to its original form and health on the Indian side when a bilateral cooperation between India and Bangladesh for restoration of Teesta in Bangladesh is being proposed.

Environmental activists have also been raising questions on the ecological impact of hydro-electric projects on the river. In October 2023, a glacial lake outburst triggered floods in the Teesta basin that claimed hundred lives and destroyed the Teesta III hydroelectric dam.

Sharing of waters of transboundary rivers have been mandated by international laws including The Helsinki Rules on the Uses of the Waters of International Rivers in 1966. Article 253 of the Indian Constitution gives powers to the government to enter any transboundary river water-related treaty with a riparian state.

### Why is Bengal talking about Ganga treaty?

The Ganga water sharing treaty with Bangladesh completes 30 years in 2026 and a renewal of the agreement is on the cards. The Trinamool Congress chairperson has pointed out that water sharing with Bangladesh has changed the Ganga's morphology and affected lakhs of people in West Bengal owing to river erosion.

"Lakhs of people have been displaced from their habitation rendering them homeless and also leading to their loss of livelihood. The reduced silt load in Hooghly has impeded the nourishment of the Sundarban delta," she wrote in the letter to the Prime Minister.

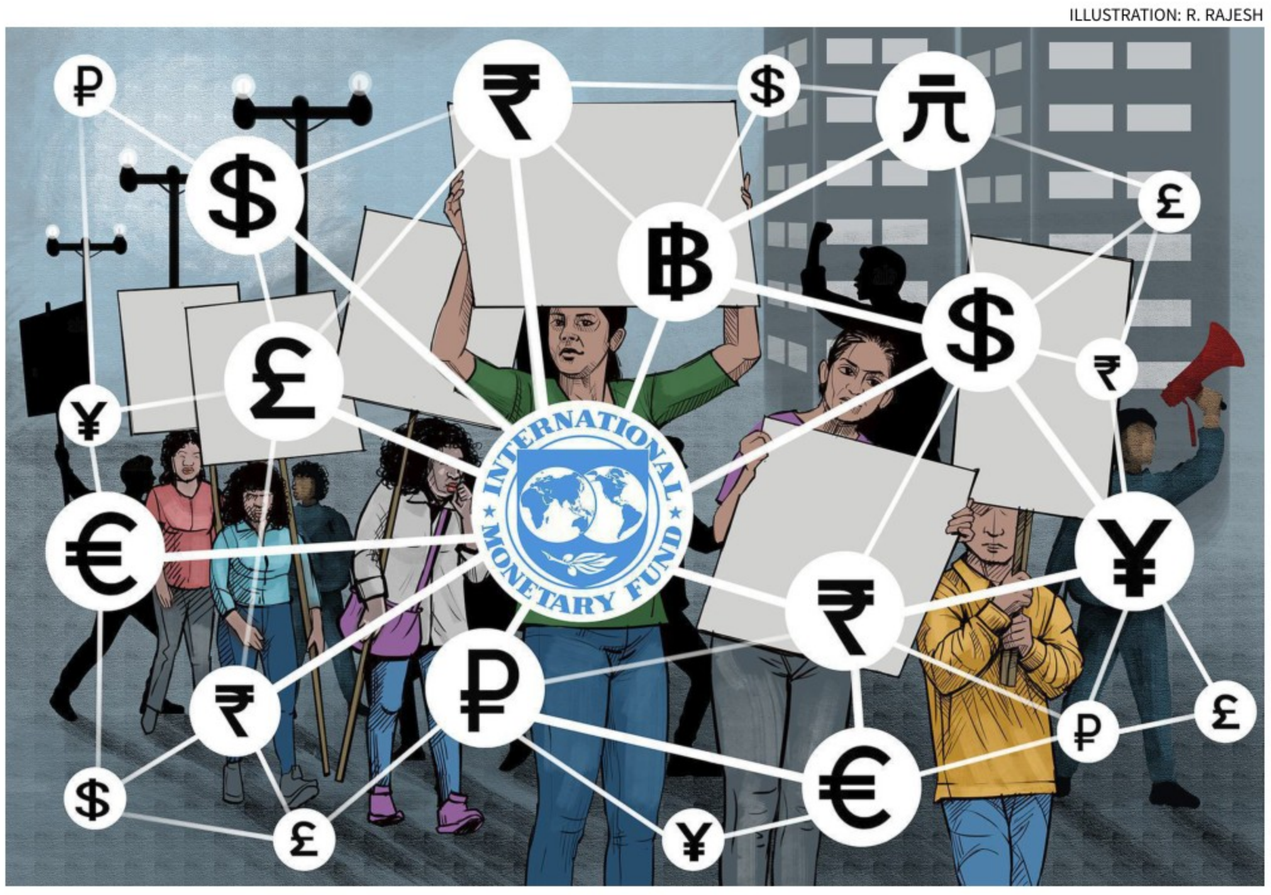
# *Overlords of the developing world*

**IMF**

Mass protests in Kenya, in which at least 30 people were shot and killed by police, against an IMF-backed finance Bill that sought to raise taxes on essentials bring into focus, once again, the conditions the multinational lender imposes on poor countries in return for loan assistance

**G. Sampath**

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH




Kenya is roiled by protests against a new finance Bill introduced by the government of President William Ruto. As demonstrations spread across the country's 47 counties, protesters in the capital Nairobi attempted to storm Parliament. The government clamped down, with 30 people killed in police firing and over 200 injured. Mr. Ruto eventually bowed to public pressure and announced he would not sign the controversial Bill, which sought to raise taxes on essentials such as bread, cooking oil, sugar and diapers.

Despite Mr. Ruto backing down, the protesters have called for his resignation. They see him as more loyal to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) than to the people of Kenya. A sign from the protests seemed to reflect the public mood: 'Kenya is not IMF's lab rat,' it read.

In 2021, Kenya signed a four-year loan agreement with the IMF for $2.34 billion, and with another deal signed in May 2023, its loan volume rose to $3.6 billion. But IMF money for developing countries comes in tranches, and with conditions.

As part of the 2021 loan deal, the IMF forced a COVID-battered Kenya to agree to austerity measures that would raise its revenue collection to 25% of GDP. The lender's demands included a combination of tax hikes and budget cuts, including elimination of subsidies on fuel and electricity and cuts in spending on education and health.

Mr. Ruto, when he came to power in September 2022, went about diligently following the IMF diktat. He cut subsidies on maize and fuel, with the latter sparking a surge in inflation. Massive protests ensued in March and July 2023, in which 30 people were killed by the police. Nonetheless, Mr. Ruto stayed the course on other fiscal consolidation measures, and earlier this month, his government reached a staff level agreement with the IMF. It was expected to open the tap on another $976 million, provided the finance Bill – projected to raise revenues of $2.68 billion – went through. But with Mr. Ruto forced to abandon it, the future flow of IMF funds is in doubt.

None of this, however, is new. Kenya has been through this before, as have much of Africa, whose governments often find themselves caught between the interests of their people and that of private investors and Western commercial banks, fronted by the IMF. The IMF describes itself as "being governed by and accountable to its member countries". But its history and management structure tell a different story – of an organisation that has served as a tool of American foreign policy, and works to further the interests of Western financial elites.

In 1944, when the IMF was created at a conference of 44 nations in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, the U.S., the global supremacy of American economic might was already a reality, with the rest of the world either devastated by the Second World War or by colonial plunder, or both. This power dynamic got encoded into both the Bretton Woods twins – the IMF and the World Bank. For instance, the World Bank president is always an American, while the IMF head is always from a European ally of the U.S.

## Unwritten mandate

In theory, their function is to aid economic development and promote monetary cooperation and stability. But in practice, they have followed an unwritten mandate to foster the integration of newly independent former colonies into a global economic order on terms designed to serve the interests of American capital.

Against this background, it shouldn't be surprising that voting rights at the IMF don't follow the democratic logic of one-member country-one vote but are quota-driven, based on dollar contributions. The U.S. alone has a voting share of 16.5%, while the wealthy G-7 countries together command more than 40% of the voting power. This is more than that enjoyed by all the nations in Africa and Latin America put together, and populations most affected by decisions taken by IMF bureaucrats live precisely in these countries.

As of March 2024, among Africa's 54 countries, 31 had outstanding loans with the IMF. But they have nothing remotely resembling a 'say' in how the IMF is run.

The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres flagged the bias in the IMF framework last year when he said the Bretton Woods system reflected "the power relations of 1945".

This unfairness, and the unequal relationship with the IMF, is partly why so many developing countries, from Kenya to Ghana, Zambia and Pakistan, have witnessed protests against the IMF and IMF-imposed economic policies – the infamous 'Structural Adjustment Programs' (SAPs).

SAPs, adopted by the IMF from 1986 onwards, typically require governments to cut public spending, privatise state enterprises, reduce import duties and tariffs, and implement other measures so that the country pursues export-led growth. The predictable outcome of these policies, documented in the IMF's own internal research, is extreme inequality.

## Impact of SAPs

A 2002 World Bank-funded study by the Structural Adjustment Participatory Review International Network tracked the impact of the IMF's SAPs in nine countries across four continents.

Its report highlighted four ways in which they furthered "impoverishment and marginalisation of local populations": one, by causing the demise of domestic manufacturing sectors and loss of employment for small producers; two, agricultural, trade and mining reforms decimated small farms and poor rural communities; three, they triggered job losses; and four, the reduced role of state in providing guaranteed access to essential services led to increase in poverty. Yet, the IMF, as the international lender of last resort, continues to impose SAP-like requirements.

Faced with a backlash in dozens of countries, the IMF did introduce 'social spending floors' to protect public spending on education, health and social protection from being cut as part of its loan conditionalities. But an Oxfam analysis of 27 loan programmes negotiated with low- and middle-income countries found that "for every $1 the IMF encouraged governments to spend on public services, it has told them to cut six times more than that through austerity measures."

In 1994, the *New York Times* described the IMF and the World Bank as the "overlords of Africa". In the 30 years since, as Kenyans can testify, little seems to have changed. The overlords continue to influence economic policies in low and middle-income nations, with the fates of millions determined not in their own Parliaments but in the boardrooms of the IMF headquarters in Washington.

### THE GIST

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- Voting rights at the IMF don't follow the logic of one-member country-one vote but are quota-driven, based on dollar-contributions. The U.S. alone has a voting share of 16.5%, while the wealthy G-7 countries together command more than 40% of the voting power
- As of March 2024, among Africa's 54 countries, 31 had outstanding loans with the IMF, but they have nothing remotely resembling a 'say' in how the IMF is run

# *Chair of the House*

**Om Birla**

The BJP lawmaker's first term as Speaker of the Lok Sabha was known for both his inclusive approach as well as the unprecedented punishments he handed to Opposition lawmakers

**Nistula Hebbar**

ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's re-election as the chair of the Lok Sabha after completing a full five-year term is being seen as part of the continuum that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to establish between his last term and the current one.

After repeating nearly all Ministers in his Council of Ministers, and reappointing his earlier team of officials at the Prime Minister's Office, the re-nomination of Mr. Birla as the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) candidate as Speaker was almost a given. Mr. Birla won, but not before some high drama with the Opposition fielding its own candidate and stopping just short of asking for a division of votes.

While this election of Mr. Birla had an air of inevitability around it, it was not always the case. The choice of Mr. Birla for his first term as Speaker had taken everyone by surprise, including himself. Mr. Modi's choice for Speaker in his first term as Prime Minister was the veteran Sumitra Mahajan, an eighth-term MP. In his second tenure, he picked Mr. Birla, a second-term MP from Kota, Rajasthan.

Mr. Birla, who began his career in student politics, in Kota, steadily climbed the party ladder while working at the youth wing of the BJP, the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM).

He went from the district unit head of the BJYM to its State president. He was elected to the Rajasthan legislature three times. His appointment as the Lok Sabha Speaker was a leap, both in profile and responsibility.

An RSS recruit, he was ideologically aligned to the Sangh Parivar, and had the trust of Mr. Modi, who had engaged with him on several occasions in the past with regard to politics in Rajasthan. Mr. Birla was evolving as an important resource from Rajasthan for the BJP's national leadership, when this offer came his way.

## First session

It was perhaps his experience as a backbencher in Parliament that helped him conduct the House smoothly in the early years. In the first session he presided over in 2019, all first time MPs got an opportunity to speak as he kept the Lok Sabha working till very late in the evening. A record 1,066 subjects were raised in the Zero Hour in the first session, another record.

When Pramila Bisoyi, a first term MP of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) who had not even completed her primary education, kept avoiding all attempts to make her speak in Parliament, Mr. Birla sought her out to find out the reason only to discover that her hesitancy stemmed from her inability to speak either in Hindi or English. She spoke a local version of Odia. Mr. Birla then arranged an Odia to Hindi translator from among the Parliament staff, to help her speak.

When Ministers of the BJP-led government did not come up with satisfactory answers to questions by MPs on Question Hour, some got the sharp end of Mr. Birla's tongue, with many Opposition MPs appreciating his efforts at ensuring everyone had their say in the House.

All this, however, was eclipsed when he created a new record by suspending 100 Opposition MPs in the Winter Session of 2023. And while everyone got a chance to speak, least number of government Bills went through parliamentary scrutiny. On the day he was re-elected as Speaker, Mr. Birla read out a statement condemning the Emergency– the Indira Gandhi-led Cabinet imposed Emergency 49 years ago – drawing protests from the Opposition.

The rough start raises questions on what approach Mr. Birla would take in his second term. Unlike in his first term, when the BJP had absolute majority in the House, this time, the BJP has formed a coalition government with NDA allies, and the Opposition seems resurgent.

Opposition MPs are hoping that Mr. Birla's accommodative gestures from his previous tenure, in ensuring that all MPs get a chance to speak, and calling Ministers to account for not doing their parliamentary homework be the model he chooses to continue in his second tenure. But if he chooses to take the confrontational path, that could lead to showdowns. It is to be seen, which aspect of continuity he chooses to enforce.

# *Rabble-rouser*

**Björn Höcke**

The far-right AfD leader, who stands trial for using Nazi-era slogans, calls for a '180-degree turn' in how Germany remembers its past, including Holocaust

**Sumeda**

While addressing a gathering late last year, far-right German politician Björn Höcke, then on trial for raising a Nazi slogan at a 2021 rally, invoked the phrase "Everything for...," prompting the crowd to respond "Germany" to complete the banned Nazi slogan, which was inscribed on the knives of Adolf Hitler's storm troopers, who played a key role in his rise to power in the 1930s.

The former history teacher had earlier faced criticism for inciting racial hatred and using anti-Semitic language when he described the Holocaust memorial in Berlin as a "monument of shame" and called for a"180-degree turn" in how Germany remembers its past.

"Never, never must we allow ourselves to let the demagogy of a Björn Höcke go unchallenged," the then Germany's Vice Chancellor, Sigmar Gabriel, said. The Central Council of Jews said the "anti-Semitic and utterly inhuman words" had revealed the true face of the Alternative for Germany (AfD). The party nearly expelled him, warning that his approach could "damage its acceptance."

Despite a string of controversies, the 52-year-old rose through the ranks of the AfD to become one of the most powerful figures in the shifting German political landscape. He has consistently pushed the limits of public discourse with controversial stances on history, nationalism, race and migrants.

He now stands trial for the second time on charges of using a Nazi slogan, just months ahead of the regional elections in Thuringia, where he plans to run for Governor.

History deeply influenced Mr. Höcke's life and career. He was born in Lünen, Westphalia, in 1972, with roots tracing to German refugees from East Prussia. His upbringing instilled a sense of displacement and a longing for a lost homeland, themes evident in his political ideology. "Key to understanding Höcke is his ideology-shaping heritage of East Prussia where Höcke's forebears originated... A second ideology-shaping element is the idea that 'battles create identities'... Höcke says, 'to be Prussian is a lifestyle'... This means Prussian authoritarian militarism," Sebastian Hennig notes in the book *Never Twice in the Same River*. He described Mr. Höcke's life as "dutiful" until he became aware of "German suffering" and felt the need to change the national discourse. In 2013, he co-founded the AfD's Thuringia chapter, launching his political career.

## Revisionist views

Quickly rising to prominence as one of Thuringia's most radical figures, Mr. Höcke gained notoriety for his revisionist views on Nazi history and rhetoric reminiscent of the 1930s. During the 2015 European migrant crisis, he warned large crowds against "German alienation". His oratory style drew comparisons to Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels.

Mr. Höcke participated in far-right demonstrations, made racist comments, attempted to normalise Nazi-era words, and questioned national guilt over the Holocaust. "Germans are the only people in the world who plant a monument of shame in the heart of their capital... the laughable policy of coming to terms with the past is crippling us," he said. He claimed multiculturalism threatened Germany's existence.

Mr. Höcke's divisive remarks caused internal strife. In 2019, a court ruled that it is legally justifiable to label him a "fascist". The AfD's regional branch was placed under surveillance as a "right-wing extremist" group.

His relentless testing of political boundaries peaked when he concluded a speech at a political event with the Nazi slogan "Everything for Germany" in 2021. In court he argued he was unaware of its "criminal relevance." However, he repeated the slogan at another event in December 2023. The legal troubles didn't affect his popularity, though.

Following the AfD's strong show in the EU elections, Mr. Höcke is now focused on Thuringia, aiming for victory in the regional polls. If successful, Björn Höcke could secure his first constitutional post, transitioning from a polarising figure to a potential state Premier.

**BELGRADE**

## Attacker with crossbow killed outside Israeli embassy in Serbia

AFP

A Serbian police officer on Saturday killed a man who shot him in the neck with a crossbow in front of the Israeli embassy in Belgrade, the Serbian Interior Minister said. Some arrests were made and a number of people known to the security services were suspected of being linked to the attack. AFP

**KYIV**

## Russian attacks on south and east regions of Ukraine kill 10 persons

REUTERS

Russian strikes on a southern Ukrainian town and villages in the embattled Donetsk region killed 10 persons on Saturday. An attack on Vilniansk in south Ukraine killed six civilians and wounded eight. Three persons were killed in an attack on Zarichne in Donetsk while another was killed in the frontline village of New York. AFP

**ULAANBAATAR**

## Mongolia's ruling People's Party wins parliamentary elections

REUTERS

Mongolia's ruling party, the People's Party (MPP), emerged from this week's polls with its parliamentary majority reduced on Saturday, after a campaign dominated by graft fears and the state of the economy. Prime Minister Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene's MPP won 68 seats, giving it a majority of four in the 126 member House. AFP

**BEIRUT**

## IS killed more than 4,000 since Syria territorial defeat: monitor

AP

Islamic State fighters have killed nearly 4,100 people in Syria since 2019 when the jihadists lost their last stronghold in the country, a war monitor said on Saturday. IS overran large swathes of Syria and Iraq in 2014, proclaiming a so-called caliphate and launching a reign of terror in June of that year. AFP

## Iran warns of full-blown war if Hezbollah is attacked

**Agence France-Presse**
TEHRAN

Iran on Saturday warned that "all Resistance Fronts", a grouping of Iran and its regional allies, would confront Israel if it attacks Hezbollah.

The comment from Iran's mission to New York comes with fears of a wider regional war involving Israel and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah movement. The two sides have engaged in near-daily exchanges of fire since the war in Gaza began.

Israel's military said plans for a Lebanon offensive had been "approved and validated", prompting Hezbollah to respond that none of Israel would be spared in a full-blown conflict.

# Iran to have run-off between reformist and conservative

Masoud Pezeshkian gets 42.4% of the vote while Saeed Jalili wins 38.6% votes; only slightly more than 40% of the 61 million electorate took part in the first round — a record low turnout

**Agence France-Presse**
TEHRAN

The sole reformist in Iran's presidential election, Masoud Pezeshkian, will face the conservative Saeed Jalili in a run-off, authorities said on Saturday, following a vote marred by historically low turnout.

Mr. Pezeshkian, 69, secured 42.4% of the vote, while Mr. Jalili, a 58-year-old former nuclear negotiator, came second with 38.6%, according to voting figures announced by Mohsen Eslami, spokesperson for Iran's elections authority.

Conservative parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf was next with 13.8% of the vote, while the only other candidate, conservative cleric Mostafa Pourmohammadi, received less than 1%.

**Limited choice:** Saeed Jalili is an ultraconservative former nuclear negotiator while Massoud Pezeshkian is a reformist candidate. AFP

"None of the candidates could garner the absolute majority of the votes," Mr. Eslami said, adding that those who finished first and second would face each other in a runoff next Friday.

Only slightly more than 40% of the 61 million electorate took part in Friday's first round – a record low turnout for the Islamic republic.

The electoral authority said more than one million ballots were spoiled.

Out of Iran's 13 previous presidential elections since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, only one has led to a run-off, which occurred in 2005.

### Raisi's death

The poll had been scheduled to take place in 2025 but was brought forward by the death of conservative President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash last month.

# Women's rights is an internal issue, say Taliban before talks

**Agence France-Presse**
KABUL

Taliban authorities said on Saturday that demands over women's rights were "Afghanistan's issues" to solve, ahead of United Nations-led engagement talks where the exclusion of Afghan women has sparked outcry.

The Taliban, which has imposed restrictions on women since seizing power in 2021 that the UN has described as "gender apartheid", will send its first delegation to the third round of talks starting in Qatar on Sunday.

Civil society representatives, including from women's rights groups, will attend meetings with the international envoys and UN officials on Tuesday, after the official talks. Rights groups have condemned the exclusion of Afghan women from the main meetings and the lack of human rights issues on the agenda.

**Tough life:** The United Nations has labelled the restrictions imposed on Afghan women by Taliban as gender apartheid. AFP

The Taliban authorities "acknowledge the issues about women", government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in Kabul on the eve of the latest talks. "But these issues are Afghanistan's issues," said Mujahid, who will lead the delegation.

He said the Taliban government would represent all of Afghanistan at the meetings and, given their authority, should be the only Afghans at the table.

"If Afghans participate through several channels, it means we are still scattered, our nation is still not unified," he said.

## 'At least 30 killed in anti-government protests in Kenya'

**Agence France-Presse**
NAIROBI

At least 30 people died in protests in Kenya this week sparked by a government drive to substantially raise taxes in the East African country, Human Rights Watch said Saturday.

"Kenyan security forces shot directly into crowds of protesters on (Tuesday) June 25, 2024,," the NGO said in a statement.

"Although there is no confirmation on the exact number of people killed in Nairobi and other towns, Human Rights Watch found that at least 30 people had been killed on that day based on witness accounts, publicly available information, hospital and mortuary records in Nairobi as well as witness accounts," the statement said. "Shooting directly into crowds without justification, including as protesters try to flee, is completely unacceptable under Kenyan and international law," said Otsieno Namwaya, associate Africa director at Human Rights Watch.

## Gazans living in bombed-out buildings and camps near piles of trash: UNRWA

**Agence France-Presse**
GENEVA

Gazans are forced to live in bombed-out buildings or camp next to giant piles of trash, a United Nations spokeswoman said on Friday, denouncing the "unbearable" conditions in the besieged territory.

Louise Wateridge from UNRWA, the UN agency supporting Palestinian refugees, described the "extremely dire" living conditions in the Gaza Strip.

"It's really unbearable," she told reporters in Geneva, via video-link from central Gaza.

**Piecing together:** A man carries salvaged items following an Israeli raid in Rafah on the southern Gaza Strip on Saturday. AFP

Ms. Wateridge, who returned on Wednesday after four weeks outside the territory, said that even in that time the situation had "significantly deteriorated".

"Today, it has to be the worst it's ever been. I don't doubt that tomorrow again will be the worst it's ever been," she said.

Nearly nine months into the war between Israel and Hamas, Ms. Wateridge said the Gaza Strip had been "destroyed".

She said she had been "shocked" on returning to Khan Yunis in central Gaza.

"The buildings are skeletons, if at all. Everything is rubble," she said. "And yet people are living there again. With no bathrooms, "people are relieving themselves anywhere they can".

## German far-right party AfD re-elects leaders at convention

**Associated Press**
BERLIN

The far-right Alternative for Germany or AfD, re-elected its leadership duo on Saturday after the party made gains in the recent European election, while thousands of people protested against its convention and some demonstrators tried to block roads or clashed with police.

The AfD took 15.9% of the vote to finish second in the European Parliament election which was held on June 9, despite recent scandals and setbacks.

At the regular two-day convention in the western city of Essen, co-leaders Alice Weidel and Tino Chrupalla were elected unopposed to new two-year terms. They were backed by 79.8% and 82.7% of delegates respectively – a display of harmony by the party's often-argumentative standards.

Ms. Weidel vowed to work to "tear down the unspeakable so-called firewalls" that other parties have set up against working with AfD.

# Sport

## Vinicius special drives Brazil to big win over Paraguay

**COPA AMERICA**

**Reuters**
LAS VEGAS

Brazil's Vinicius Junior scored twice in his side's 4-1 Copa America victory over Paraguay in a Group D clash in Nevada on Friday, bouncing back from a lacklustre display in his first game of the tournament.

### Colombia advances

Colombia cruised to a 3-0 win over Costa Rica in Group D and booked its spot in the quarterfinals thanks to strikes from Luis Diaz, Davinson Sanchez and Jhon Cordoba.

Colombia tops Group D with six points after two matches, with Brazil in second on four points.

Costa Rica is third with one point and Paraguay, bottom with zero after two defeats, has been eliminated.

**Influential:** After largely being anonymous in Brazil's first match, Vinicius stepped up with a brace against Paraguay. AFP

From the whistle, Vinicius' pace and trickery posed a constant threat to Paraguay down the left flank, a far cry from his performance in Brazil's 0-0 draw with Costa Rica in their opening group stage match, in which he was largely ineffectual.

Despite Brazil's strong start, it was Paraguay which almost went ahead in the 15th minute as Damian Bobadilla's goal-bound effort took a massive deflection off Eder Militao and nearly wrongfooted Brazil goalkeeper Alisson Becker, who showed quick reflexes to keep out the strike.

### Penalty miss

Brazil earned a 28th-minute penalty for a handball, which was fired wide by Lucas Paqueta, but the midfielder made up for his miss seven minutes later as he set up Vinicius with a first-time pass to cap off a flowing team move.

Girona winger Savio doubled Brazil's advantage after pouncing on a rebound inside the box, before Vinicius stuck out a boot to divert a clearance from Omar Alderete into the net for his second goal of the night in first half stoppage time.

Paraguay got a goal back after the break as Alderete netted a superb long-range, but any hopes of a comeback were swiftly dashed when Brazil was awarded a penalty in the 68th minute after a handball by Mathias Villasanti.

Despite his earlier miss, Paqueta stepped up and made no mistake at the second time of asking to send Brazil's fans at the Allegiant Stadium into delirium.

**The results:** Colombia 3 (Diaz 31-pen, Sanchez 59, Cordoba 62) bt Costa Rica 0; Paraguay 1 (Alderete 48) lost to Brazil 4 (Vinicius Jr 35, 45+5, Savio 43, Paqueta 65-pen).

## Malvika shocks Kristy, enters the semifinals

**BADMINTON**

**Press Trust of India**
FORT WORTH

India's Malvika Bansod stunned Scotland's Kristy Gilmour in a thrilling three-game match to advance to the women's singles semifinals of the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament here.

The 22-year-old, ranked 49th, registered a 10-21, 21-15, 21-10 win over Kristy, the 2014 Commonwealth Games silver medallist.

Malvika had defeated Kristy at the Hylo Open in 2022 when the Scot had retired in the second game due to an injury. The Indian had lost twice to Kristy in the past.

The Indian, who had won the Azerbaijan International Challenge this year, will face sixth-seeded Japanese Natsuki Nidaira.

In men's singles, Priyanshu Rajawat lost to fourth seed Lei Lan Xi of China 21-15, 11-21, 18-21 in a last-eight contest that lasted just over an hour.

Second seeds Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand went down 17-21, 21-17, 19-21 to Japanese sixth seeds Rui Hirokami and Yuna Kato in the quarterfinals.

**The results:**

**Men, pre-quarterfinals:** Lei Lan Xi (Chn) bt Priyanshu Rajawat 15-21, 21-11, 21-18.

**Women, quarterfinals:** Malvika Bansod bt Kristy Gilmour (Sco) 10-21, 21-15, 21-10.

**Doubles:** Rui Hirokami/ Yuna Kato (Jpn) bt Treesa Jolly/ Gayatri Gopichand 21-17, 17-21, 21-19.

**NEW HIGH**

## India's 176 the highest team score in a T20 World Cup summit clash

K.R. DEEPAK

India's score of 176 for seven against South Africa in Bridgetown (Barbados) on Saturday is the highest team score in a T20 World Cup final. The previous highest in a title clash belonged to Australia when it made 173 against New Zealand in Dubai in the 2021 summit clash while chasing 172.

**RECORD**

## Kohli-Axar partnership the biggest for India for any wicket in a final

K.R. DEEPAK

Virat Kohli and Axar Patel broke the record for the highest partnership for India for any wicket in a T20 World Cup final. The duo added 72 for the fourth wicket after India had slipped to 34 for three, and bettered the record held by Gautam Gambhir and Yuvraj Singh who had added 63 during the final against Pakistan in 2007.

**DOING IT AGAIN**

## Kohli makes second-highest score by an Indian in a T20 WC final

K.R. DEEPAK

Virat Kohli's 76 in the final of the T20 World Cup 2024 against South Africa is the second-highest individual score by an Indian batter in the title clash. Kohli holds the record (77 vs Sri Lanka in the 2014 final). The best in a final is West Indies batter Marlon Samuels, who struck an unbeaten 85 against England in 2016.

**JITTERS**

## 'We never got comfortable, there was always scoreboard pressure'

K.R. DEEPAK

A "gutted" South Africa captain Aiden Markram conceded that scoreboard pressure got to his team in the T20 World Cup final. "We never got comfortable and there was always scoreboard pressure. Having said that, this was a really good game which proves that we were worthy finalists," Markram said.

# Rohit's 'Miracle Men' conjure stunning title win

Kohli and Axar's stand helps India reach 176 for seven; South Africa comes within touching distance only for the Hardik-Bumrah-Arshdeep trio to wrest back control and deliver the knockout punch

**Masters of the globe:** India went unbeaten to clinch its second World T20 crown, 17 years after winning the inaugural edition in South Africa. The triumph should banish the painful memories of the ODI World Cup loss at home last year. K.R. DEEPAK

**T20 WORLD CUP**

**Ashwin Achal**
BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

The long wait is over. India is world champion again.

In a classic ICC Men's T20 World Cup final sure to be remembered for years to come, India made history with a nail-biting seven-run win over South Africa.

And with it came the celebrations. There was an undeniable sense of relief as well, as India finally managed to cross the final hurdle after two heartbreaking falls in just the last year.

This time around, Rohit Sharma's men displayed nerves of steel in the face of pressure. The game seemed to slip away when South Africa got ahead in the chase, but the Men In Blue were unwilling to throw in the towel. Nothing could stop the Indians from wearing that coveted crown.

When the job was done, Virat Kohli looked up to the sky with hands aloft. Rohit was mobbed by his teammates, and the support staff ran on to the ground with the National flag. An emotional Hardik Pandya grabbed the tri-colour, and walked over to grab a piece of the pitch.

### Man for the moment

It was sweet, sweet redemption for Kohli, who came good with the bat when it mattered. His 59-ball 76 may not have set the pulse racing, but it immensely helped the team's cause. India found two more heroes in Jasprit Bumrah and Suryakumar Yadav. With a miserly 18th over, Bumrah tightened the screws on South Africa. The ace speedster conceded two runs and picked up a wicket in those six balls, which put the Proteas in a tight spot.

The final nail in the coffin was driven by Suryakumar, who pulled off a brilliant catch to dismiss David Miller in the last over. A juggling effort from Suryakumar at long-off sent the last recognised batter back. South Africa was knocked out cold.

After winning the toss, India made a challenging 176 for seven. There was concern among the Indian fans at the Kensington Oval when India slipped to 34 for three.

India was forced to rebuild. Axar Patel and Kohli calmed nerves with sensible batting. Using clean technique and shots along the ground, Kohli stuck in for the long haul. Axar knew his role well, having performed this task against Pakistan earlier in the tournament.

A 72-run fourth-wicket partnership was exactly what India needed to stay afloat. There could have been more, if not for a lazy piece of running from Axar. Though halfway down the track, Axar had time to turn back and make the crease. Axar, however, stopped in his tracks for a moment. Wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock took full advantage, throwing down the stumps at the bowler's end to catch Axar short.

Kohli's desire to make it count was evident when he did not acknowledge cheers for his fifty.

The time to take it all in would come later. The evening ended with a lap of honour, with hugs and greetings from Chris Gayle and other past stalwarts.

And in spirit, millions of Indians around the world joined in the festivities.

**SCOREBOARD**

**INDIA**

Rohit Sharma c Klaasen b Maharaj 9 (*5b, 2x4*), Virat Kohli c Rabada b Jansen 76 (*59b, 6x4, 2x6*), Rishabh Pant c de Kock b Maharaj 0 (*2b*), Suryakumar Yadav c Klaasen b Rabada 3 (*4b*), Axar Patel run out 47 (*31b, 1x4, 4x6*), Shivam Dube c Miller b Nortje 27 (*16b, 3x4, 1x6*), Hardik Pandya (not out) 5 (*2b, 1x4*), Ravindra Jadeja c Maharaj b Nortje 2 (*2b*); Extras (nb-1, w-6): 7; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 176.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-23 (Rohit, 1.4 overs), 2-23 (Pant, 1.6), 3-34 (Suryakumar, 4.3), 4-106 (Axar, 13.3), 5-163 (Kohli, 18.5), 6-174 (Dube, 19.4), 7-176 (Jadeja, 19.6).

**SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING**

Jansen 4-0-49-1, Maharaj 3-0-23-2, Rabada 4-0-36-1, Markram 2-0-16-0, Nortje 4-0-26-2, Shamsi 3-0-26-0.

**SOUTH AFRICA**

Reeza Hendricks b Bumrah 4 (*5b, 1x4*), Quinton de Kock c Kuldeep b Arshdeep 39 (*31b, 4x4, 1x6*), Aiden Markram c Pant b Arshdeep 4 (*5b, 1x4*), Tristan Stubbs b Axar 31 (*21b, 3x4, 1x6*), Heinrich Klaasen c Pant b Hardik 52 (*27b, 2x4, 5x6*), David Miller c Suryakumar b Hardik 21 (*17b, 1x4, 1x6*), Marco Jansen b Bumrah 2 (*4b*), Keshav Maharaj (not out) 2 (7b), Kagiso Rabada c Suryakumar b Hardik 4 (*3b, 1x4*), Anrich Nortje (not out) 1 (*1b*); Extras (b-1, lb-4, nb-1, w-3): 9; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 169.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-7 (Hendricks, 1.3), 2-12 (Markram, 2.3), 3-70 (Stubbs, 8.5), 4-106 (de Kock, 12.3), 5-151 (Klaasen, 16.1), 6-156 (Jansen, 17.4), 7-161 (Miller, 19.1), 8-168 (Rabada, 19.5).

**INDIA BOWLING**

Arshdeep 4-0-20-2, Bumrah 4-0-18-2, Axar 4-0-49-1, Kuldeep 4-0-45-0, Hardik 3-0-20-3, Jadeja 1-0-12-0.

**Toss:** India.

**Player-of-the-Match:** Kohli.

**Player-of-the-Series:** Bumrah.

*India won by seven runs to emerge champion.*

### Unbelievable turnaround

South Africa needed 26 runs off 24 deliveries, with six wickets in hand and the well-set Klaasen and dangerous Miller at the crease, when this happened

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Over 17 | W | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Hardik | Klaasen | | | | | | |
| Over 18 | 0 | 0 | 1 | W | 0 | 1 | |
| Bumrah | | | | Jansen | | | |
| Over 19 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
| Arshdeep | | | | | | | |
| Over 20 | W | 4 | 1b | 1lb | WD | W | 1 |
| Hardik | Miller | | | | | Rabada | |

# Golden sunset for Kohli and Rohit as stalwarts call time on T20I careers

**Ayan Acharya**
BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma announced their retirements from T20Is after India's T20 World Cup win.

"This is my last T20 game for India, the last [T20] World Cup I was going to play," Kohli said. "I wanted to make the most of it and this was our aim. We wanted to win an ICC tournament, we wanted to lift the cup. As I said, it was the occasion that helped me put my head down and respect the situation rather than try to force things out there."

Moments later, captain Rohit took everyone by surprise when he said he too was bringing down the curtain on his T20I career. "This was my last [T20I] game as well," Rohit said in response to a question at the press conference after the final. "No better time to say goodbye to this format. I've loved every moment of this. I started my India career playing this format. This is what I wanted, I wanted to win the cup."

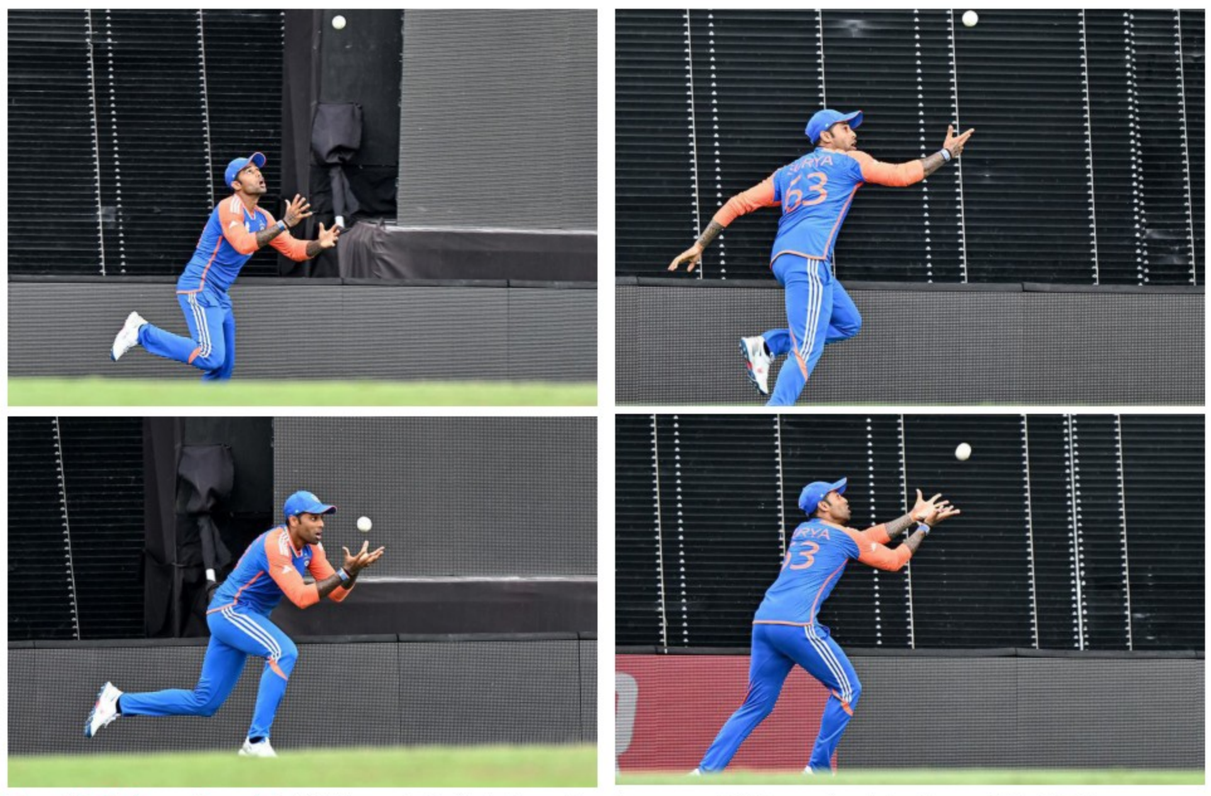
**Signing off in style:** Kohli's final T20I innings proved crucial in India's victory while Rohit led the side with aplomb. K.R. DEEPAK

After the game, Rohit was effusive in his praise for Kohli. "No one doubted Virat's form. He's been on top of his game for the last 15 years. When the occasion calls, big players stand up."

### Honours Board

| | |
|---|---|
| 2007 | India |
| 2009 | Pakistan |
| 2010 | England |
| 2012 | West Indies |
| 2014 | Sri Lanka |
| 2016 | West Indies |
| 2021 | Australia |
| 2022 | England |
| 2024 | India |

### *Nerves of steel*



**The catch that won the match:** With the contest in the balance, Suryakumar caught Miller spectacularly at long-off. K.R. DEEPAK

## INBRIEF

### Shiven, Aadya emerge boys' u-15 and girls' u-13 champs

India's Shiven Agarwal and Aadya Budhia emerged the boys' u-15 and girls' u-13 champions in the 31st Asian junior individual squash championships which concluded in Islamabad on Saturday. Shiven got the better of Malaysian Muhammad Raziq Putra Mohd Fakhrur Razi 11-7, 8-11, 11-5, 13-11 in the final, while Aadya put it past her compatriot Goushika 11-5, 11-5, 11-4. India won two gold medals in the championship after a gap of 12 years.

### Praggnanandhaa lets Gukesh off the hook

Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa missed out on becoming a joint leader at the the Superbet Classic chess tournament after settling for a draw against compatriot D. Gukesh in the third round here. Praggnanandhaa had a great opportunity to equalise the score this year but could not find a winning continuation after Gukesh spoiled a drawn endgame.

**The results**: **(third round)**: D. Gukesh (2) drew with R Praggnanandhaa (1.5); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 1.5 drew with Firouza Alireza (Fra, 1.5); Anish Giri (Ned, 1.5) drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (FID, 1.5); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 1) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 2); Wesley So (Usa, 1.5) drew with Deac Bogdan-Daniel (Rom, 1).

### Ducati's Bagnaia wins Dutch MotoGP sprint

Two-time defending world champion Francesco Bagnaia won the Dutch MotoGP sprint at Assen on Saturday ahead of current championship leader Jorge Martin and fellow Spaniard Maverick Vinales.

# South Africa fights back through Luus and Kapp

The two batters score half-centuries with the Proteas' hopes resting on the latter's shoulders; Sneh (three for 61) is the pick of the Indian bowlers with her guile and extra bounce

SA IN INDIA

**S. Dipak Ragav**
CHENNAI

Half-centuries from Sune Luus (65) and Marizanne Kapp (69 batting) helped South Africa hold its own against India on day two of the one-off Test at the MAC Stadium on Saturday. The Proteas ended the day at 232 for four after India declared at 603 for six – the highest total by a team in women's Tests.

Resuming on 525 for four, India went past Australia's record of 575, as skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (69) and Richa Ghosh (86) completed their half-centuries.

Richa entertained the crowd that had turned out early, essaying beautiful shots on both sides of the wicket. She reached her fifty with a flick to the leg-side and then pressed the accelerator.

Just when the two batters looked set for a ton, South Africa struck twice in three overs and forced the host to declare. Harmanpreet was out leg-before to pacer Tumi Sekhukhune, while Richa was trapped in front trying to sweep left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba.

When South Africa began its reply, skipper Laura Wolvaardt and Anneke Bosch started positively seeing off the half-hour session prior to lunch.

**Useful partnership**

After losing Wolvaardt early in the second session, Bosch and Luus steadied things with their 63-run partnership for the second wicket and kept the Indian spinners at bay for most of the second session. Just before tea, Sneh Rana had Bosch caught at slip.

The South African batters showed great application, using the depth of the crease and waiting for the bad deliveries to put away on a pitch beginning to assist the spinners.

For India, Sneh (three for 61) was the best bowler on the day, beating the batters with her guile and extra bounce.

The Indian catching, though, was shoddy as Luus got two reprieves – on 38 and 44. First 'keeper Richa dropped an edge off Sneh and then Sneh missed a sharp catch at first slip off Deepthi Sharma.

In the final session, Kapp showed her class, batting positively with some glorious boundaries through the off-side off pacer Pooja Vastrakar and got to her half-century in style, driving left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad to the long-off boundary.

Though South Africa fought back on the second day, it still needs another 221 runs to avoid the follow-on, and the side will need Kapp to make a big one.

Meanwhile, the Indian bowlers will look to be more clinical on the field and get to the lower-order quickly.

**Picture of concentration:** Kapp showed her class with some exquisite boundaries through the off-side. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

**SCOREBOARD**

**INDIA — 1ST INNINGS**

Shafali Verma run out 205 *(197b, 23x4, 8x6)*, Smriti Mandhana c Dercksen b Tucker 149 *(161b, 27x4, 1x6)*, Shubha Satheesh c Jafta b de Klerk 15 *(27b, 2x4)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c de Klerk b Tucker 55 *(94b, 8x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur lbw b Sekhukhune 69 *(115b, 4x4)*, Richa Ghosh lbw b Mlaba 86 *(90b, 16x4)*, Deepti Sharma (not out) 2 *(7b)*; Extras (b-16, lb-6): 22; Total (for six wkts. decl. in 115.1 overs): 603.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-292 (Smriti, 51.6 overs), 2-325 (Shubha, 58.6), 3-411 (Shafali, 74.1), 4-450 (Jemimah, 86.6), 5-593 (Harmanpreet, 112.4), 6-603 (Richa, 115.1).

**SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING**

Klaas 17-2-74-0, Dercksen 17-0-80-0, de Klerk 12-1-79-1, Sekhukhune 14-0-70-1, Mlaba 26.1-1-122-1, Tucker 26-1-141-2, Luus 3-0-15-0.

**SOUTH AFRICA — 1ST INNINGS**

Laura Wolvaardt lbw b Sneh 20 *(36b, 3x4)*, Anneke Bosch c Deepti b Sneh 39 *(73b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Sune Luus lbw b Deepti 65 *(164b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Marizanne Kapp (batting) 69 *(125b, 8x4)*, Delmi Tucker c Richa b Sneh 0 *(8b)*, Nadine de Klerk (batting) 27 *(28b, 5x4)*; Extras (b-14, nb-2): 16; Total (for four wkts. in 72 overs): 236.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-33 (Wolvaardt, 7.6), 2-96 (Bosch, 30.4), 3-189 (Luus, 59.5), 4-198 (Tucker, 62.4).

**INDIA BOWLING**

Renuka 7-0-22-0, Pooja 9-2-32-0, Sneh 20-2-61-3, Rajeshwari 16-3-50-0, Deepti 15-3-40-1, Harmanpreet 3-0-9-0, Smriti 2-0-8-0.

# We stuck to our gameplan: Luus

**Patient knock:** Luus was involved in two useful partnerships to help the Proteas dig in. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

**S. Prasanna Venkatesan**
CHENNAI

Sune Luus' 65 and her 63-run second-wicket stand with Anneke Bosch (39) and 93-run third-wicket partnership with Marizanne Kapp (69 batting) helped South Africa dig in to 236 for four against India here on Saturday.

It is to be commended as the batters had to contend with the Chennai heat, low bounce, and sharp turn from the Indian spinners.

"I think we just stuck to our game plans. We obviously had certain plans against the various bowlers, and then we felt using the depth of our crease and just keeping a straight bat.

"We had four days (after the ODIs). It feels long, but we only had two days to prepare for the Test. I think your game plan is just to bat longer, be patient, and have a good defence.

"Playing in India, it's one of the toughest Test matches you'll play in your career. I think Perth felt like winter when I look back now (to the Test vs Australia in February), compared to Chennai. Today was really one of the hottest days I've ever experienced in my long career," she said after the second day of the one-off Test.

Luus attributed her team's impressive batting to their new coach Baakier Abrahams and the spin-centric camp they had before the ODI series. "I think we obviously got the new batting coach on board with some new ideas and a fresh perspective on things.

"And he really helped us just to tweak one or two things, just to add some elements to the game that could help us in this situation. Like I mentioned earlier, using the depth of the crease. So, all those things coming into play today to really just help us," she said.

On the conversations she had with Kapp during their partnership, she said: "There was a lot of conversation about just me keeping her calm today.

"She knew that she needed to be patient and still has a long way to go. She just needed to be level-headed and she just asked me to help her out with that."

**LIVE TELECAST**

**India Women vs South Africa Women**: Only Test, day 3, Sports 18-1 & JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.
**Hockey:** Pro League, Sports 18-1 & JioCinema, 6.30 p.m.
**Formula One:** Austrian GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 6.30 p.m.
**Football:** Euro 2024, Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 9.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)
**Badminton**: US Open, Sports 18-1 & JioCinema, 10.30 p.m.

### Verstappen wins sprint, takes pole

Verstappen. AFP

AUSTRIAN GP

**Reuters**
SPIELBERG

Max Verstappen is looking unbeatable again at the Austrian Grand Prix. The Formula 1 leader followed up his win in the sprint race on Saturday with another dominant performance in qualifying to take pole for the fourth straight year at the Red Bull Ring.

It ended a streak of three straight races where the three-time defending F1 champion failed to take pole position, and dealt a blow to his closest rivals who hoped to challenge him on Red Bull's home circuit this weekend.

"It's been a while that we've actually been on pole. So it's a great feeling," Verstappen said. "This is a great statement and hopefully we can also show that tomorrow in the race." After qualifying in the last three races was decided by narrow margins, this one wasn't even close as Verstappen's final lap in third qualifying beat McLaren's Lando Norris by 0.404s.

### Switzerland sends holder Italy packing from the Euro 2024

**Agence France-Presse**
BERLIN

Switzerland dumped reigning champion Italy out of Euro 2024 with a stunning 2-0 victory on Saturday to reach the quarterfinals for the second time in its history.

Murat Yakin's supremely well-drilled side outplayed the flat two-time winner in the last 16 clash and will face England or Slovakia in the next round.

Ruben Vargas teed up Remo Freuler for Switzerland's 37th minute opener before curling home superbly himself right at the start of the second half to deservedly double the lead.

A new-look Italy, short on star power and without many of the key figures that led it to Euro 2020 glory, offered little in response to Switzerland's energetic display.

Former Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka, arriving at the Euros after a stunning season with German champion Bayer Leverkusen, pulled the strings as the Swiss rarely looked like letting the lead slip away.

Italy coach Luciano Spalletti dropped Jorginho after his worrying group stage performances, bringing in Nicolo Fagioli in defensive midfield among a hefty six changes which failed to bring the Azzurri to life.

The 23-year-old started a major tournament match for the first time, having missed most of the season with Juventus after a seven-month ban for gambling on football matches.

**The result:** Switzerland 2 (Freuler 37, Vargas 46) bt Italy 0.

**Class act:** Vargas, who set up Switzerland's opener, curls in a stunner for the second. AFP

# Sable overwrites own meet record, Kushare consolidates Paris spot

ATHLETICS

**Uthra Ganesan**
PANCHKULA

Avinash Sable was far from his best but still ahead of the rest of the pack by a distance as he practically sauntered to win the 3000m steeplechase on day three of the 63rd Inter-State athletics championships here on Saturday.

The national record holder, who has already attained the Paris Olympic qualifying standard, clocked 8:31.75 to overwrite his own previous meet record of 8:33.19, set five years ago in Lucknow.

That was also the last time he had participated in the Inter-State meet. Despite the slow race, Sable was satisfied with his effort, saying he had run only at 75-80%.

"I think I am peaking at the right time. Earlier, I had thought of entering the 1500m to check my speed.

"But given the weather and conditions here, I thought I would have to put more effort in 1500m and so decided against it," Sable admitted.

On Saturday, he explained, his main aim was to check his progress and so had started slowly for the first kilometre.

"But then I realised I was not putting any effort at all and started pulling harder for the remaining laps," he said. The change was evident in the way he broke away from the rest of the pack to lead by more than 250m by the time he neared the finish line.

**Doing it in style:** Sarvesh continued his brilliant season, equalling the six-year old meet record. RITU RAJ KONWAR

"Earlier I used to start my season early and then train quietly before the big events without any competition to actually check myself. This time I have decided to mix training and competition closer to the Olympics.

"At the Paris Diamond League also I will not try to go full out. My main focus during training has been on the final kick and I have learnt from my previous mistakes," he said confidently.

In high jump, Sarvesh Kushare continued his brilliant season, equalling the six-year old meet record of 2.25m for a season's best to further consolidate his position on the Road to Paris rankings (he is currently 29th).

In shot put, Tajinderpal Singh Toor went all out in final attempt to take the top spot with 19.93m, then admitted he was still recovering and far from full fitness but insisted he would be ready for Paris. Toor too has qualified through the world-rankings quota.

**The results (only finals):**
**Men: 3000m Steeplechase:** 1. Avinash Sable (Mah, 8:31.75), 2. Sumit Kumar (MP, 8:46.93), 3. Shankar Swami (Har, 8:47.05); **pole vault**: 1. Yugendran (TN, 5m), 2. M. Gowtham (TN, 4.90m), 3. Lakshay (Har, 4.90m); **hammer throw:** 1. Praveen Kumar (Raj, 68.76m), 2. Damneet Singh (Pun, 66.40m), 3. Mohd. Shahban (UP, 65.02m); **shot put:** 1. Tajinderpal Singh Toor (19.93m), 2. Samardeep Gill (MP, 19.68m), 3. Aryan Tyagi (UP, 18.02m); **high jump:** 1. Sarvesh Kushare (Mah, 2.25m), 2. Tejaswin Shankar (Del, 2.23m), 3. Jesse Sandesh (Kar, 2.18m); **long jump:** 1. Arya (Kar, 7.78m), 2. Jeswin Aldrin (TN, 7.75m), 3. Aravinth (TN, 7.73m); **decathlon:** 1. N. Thowfeeq (Ker, 7042 pts), 2. Jashbir Nayak (Odi, 6791), 3. Rohit Roman (AP, 6667).

**Women: 3000m Steeplechase:** 1. Parul Chaudhary (UP, 9:45.70), 2. Komal Jagadale (Mah, 10:12.64), 3. Chhavi Yadav (MP, 10:13.58); **20km walk:** 1. Ravina (Har, 1:39:53.00), 2. Munita Prajapati (UP, 1:40:20.00), 3. Sejal Singh (Mah, 1:41:28.00); **discus:** 1. Seema (Har, 57.19m), 2. Nidhi (Har, 52.06m), 3. Priti (Raj, 49.40m).

### 'We were focusing more on stock balls'

**Sports Bureau**
CHENNAI

Sneh Rana, who's playing for India after six months, was the standout bowler with three for 61 on the second day of the one-off Test against South Africa here on Saturday.

Asked how she keeps herself motivated and about her preparation, she said: "We had the BCCI inter-zonal multi-day tournament for motivation. I think a player should always be motivated. Any challenge is given to you, you have to be spot on.

Speaking about the pitch behaviour and India's bowling plan on the day, she said: "We were focusing more on our stock balls. In Test cricket, fielding is the only way to dominate the other team. So we focused more on fielding well.

"In the beginning, there was not much turn. But later on, as the wicket got older, I think we saw more bounce on the wicket and there was more turn."

Sneh. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

# Slovakia no pushover for misfiring England

Denmark will be the underdog when it takes on Germany, but that suits it just fine as it seeks to channel the spirit of 1992

**Reuters**
BLANKENHAIN

Gareth Southgate's hesitant England team will need to finally make its presence felt in Euro 2024 against Slovakia in the last-16, or the underdog Slovaks will fancy their chances.

Southgate's richly talented squad arrived in Germany as a tournament favourite but optimism around the 2020 runner-up fizzled with three drab group games mired in uncertainty over the best line-up, with the coach conceding an "experiment" in the early matches had failed.

Slovakia, on the other hand, kicked off its campaign by shocking No. 3 Belgium.

Slovakia boss Francesco Calzona called his team the Cinderella story of the group stage.

England at least showed some improvement in the second half of its 0-0 draw with Slovenia on Tuesday, with Kobbie Mainoo and Cole Palmer impressing off the bench.

While England's defence was a major concern ahead of the tournament with veterans such as Harry Maguire missing due to injury, it has been the best part of this campaign. Through the group phase England have offered up the least expected goals (xG).

Southgate will hope for a better performance from Jude Bellingham, who was excellent in the first half against Serbia, but drifted out of the two games since.

Slovakia is led by crafty Napoli midfielder Stanislav Lobotka, who Italian great Andrea Pirlo called the "best playmaker in the Italian league."

Later in the day, Denmark will be the underdog when it takes on Germany, but that suits it just fine as it seeks to channel the spirit of 1992.

Since the draw was confirmed, much has been said in Denmark about its unexpected win over Germany in the final of the European Championship more than three decades ago.

The Danish are far less of a surprise package at Euro 2024, having gone to the semifinals in the last edition, and though they have struggled for goals in the group stage, they still fancy their chances of springing another upset.

Denmark may have to take on Germany with a depleted midfield, and a late decision will need to be taken over the fitness of playmaker Christian Eriksen.

## SNAPSHOTS

### India enters quarterfinals

India booked quarterfinals berth at the Badminton Asia Junior Mixed Team Championship with a 3-2 victory over Philippines in its second Group-C clash here on Saturday. Indonesia is also through to the quarterfinal having beaten Philippines 5-0 and Vietnam 4-1 in their two group matches.

**The results: India bt Philippines 3-2** (Tanvi Sharma bt Funtespina Christel Rei 21-9, 21-17; Rounak Chauhan lost to Jamal Rahmat Pandi 21-15, 18-21, 12-21; K. Vennala / Sharvani Walekar bt Hernandes Andrea / Precious Libaton 23-21, 21-11; Arsh Mohammad / Sankar Sarawat bt Christian Dorega / John Lanuza 21-16, 21-14; Bharav Ram Arigela / Vennala lost to Jamal Pandi / Mary Untal 8-21, 15-21).

### Vaidehi Chaudhari cruises into final

Vaidehi Chaudhari outclassed Monique Barry of New Zealand 6-2, 6-0 in the semifinals of the $25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Taipei on Saturday.

**The results: $25,000 ITF men, Hillcrest, South Africa: Semifinals:** Devin Badenhorsst (RSA) bt Aryan Shah 4-6, 7-6((3), 6-4.

**$15,000 ITF men, Tianjin, China: Semifinals:** S. Mukund bt Dong Zhenxiong (Chn) 7-5, 6-2.

**$40,000 ITF women, Palma del Rio, Spain: Doubles: Final:** Martyna Kubka (Pol) & Lara Salden (Bel) bt Rutuja Bhosale & Sophie Chang (USA) 6-2, 6-1.

**$25,000 ITF men, Taipei: Semifinals:** Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Monique Barry (Nzl) 6-2, 6-0.

**$15,000 ITF men, Los Angeles: Quarterfinals:** Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Kate Fakih (USA) 6-1, 6-1.

### HI names core probables group for women's camp

Hockey India (HI) on Saturday announced a 33-member Indian women's probables group for a two-month training camp at the SAI Center here from Monday.

The Indian team went on a short break after losing all its matches in the FIH Hockey Pro League season.

## BENGALURU ROUND-UP

### Bengaluru Blues-B clinches title

Bengaluru Blues-B edged out Rising Star-B 2-1 to win the phase-I title at the Travancore Cup State-level hockey tournament on Sunday.

**The result (final):** Bengaluru Blues-B 2 (Manoj 18, Arun 40) bt Rising Star-B 1 (Hemanth 23).

**Special prizes: Best goalkeeper:** Praneeth (Rising Star); **Best defender:** Shaan (Rising Star); **Best midfielder:** Hemanth (Bengaluru Blues-B); **Best forward:** Manish Mayur (Bengaluru Blues-B); **Player of the tournament:** Hari Krishna (Bengaluru Blues-B).

### Double delight for Tushar

Tushar Suveer won both the singles and doubles titles at the Yonex-Sunrise Karnataka State-ranking badminton tournament that concluded on Sunday. In singles, Tushar beat Abhishek Yeligar in straight games while in doubles, he partnered Nicholas Raj to defeat Abhishek and Raghu Mariswamy.

**The results (finals):**

**One for the album:** The winners of the Yonex-Sunrise State-ranking badminton tournament. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Triumphant:** The Bengaluru Blues-B team that won the State-level hockey tournament. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Singles: Men:** Tushar Suveer bt Abhishek Yeligar 21-16, 21-19; **Women:** Ilishaa Pal bt Shaina Manimuthu 21-19, 21-17; **Boys:** Prateek Koundilya bt Laksh Chengappa 21-19, 17-21, 21-19; **Girls:** Lakshya Rajesh bt Shaina Manimuthu 21-10, 21-13.

**Doubles: Men:** Nicholas Raj & Tushar Suveer bt Abhishek Yeligar & Raghu Mariswamy 15-21, 21-17, 21-16; **Women:** K. Ashwini Bhat & Shikha Gautam bt N.S. Gagana & Pranjal Prabhu Chimulkar 21-13, 21-6; **Boys:** T. Aarya & A.R. Sumith bt K.K. Abhishek & Chris Baptist 18-21, 23-21, 21-12; **Girls:** Aditi Deepak Raj & Vriddhi Ponnamma bt Ishika Baruah & Lakshya Rajesh 18-21, 21-8, 21-15.

**Mixed doubles: Senior:** M. Rohith & K. Ashwini Bhat bt Ashith Surya & Amrutha Pramuthesh 21-12, 18-21, 22-20; **U-19:** K.K. Abhishek & Prerana Shet bt T. Aarya & Aditi Deepak Raj 21-17, 14-21, 21-18.

# Dominant show by Muddappa

MOTORSPORTS

**Sports Bureau**
CHENNAI

Hemanth Muddappa (Mantra Racing) gave another dominant performance to notch a double crown in the first round of the MMSC FMSCI National motorcycle drag racing championshipson Saturday.

**Picture perfect:** The round 1 winners of the National drag racing championships held in Chennai on Saturday.

**Provisional results (all four-stroke unless mentioned): Unrestricted:** 1. Mujahid Pasha (Fast Track Racing) (08.251secs); 2. Hemanth Muddappa (Mantra Racing) (08.251s); 3. Alimon (Fast Track Racing) (08.279s).

**1051-1650cc (Super Sport):** 1. Muddappa (08.063s); 2. Pasha (08.103s); 3. Aymaan Baig (08.117s).

**851-1050cc (SS):** 1. Anvay Patil (08.286s); 2. Muddappa (08.294s); 3. Sugan Prasad S.P. (Mantra Racing) (08.448).

**551-850cc (SS):** 1. Muddappa (08.630s); 2. Mohammed Riyaz (Fast Track Racing) (08.675s); 3. Altaf Khan (Fast Track Racing) (09.112s).

**361-550cc (SS Indian):** 1. Shahrukh Khan (Mantra Racing) (11.494s); 2. Imran (Fast Track Racing) (12.315s); 3. Pasha (12.452s).

**166-225cc (SS):** 1. Prashanth (13.683s); 2. Prashanth K. (13.928s); 3. Shaninsha R. (14.395).

**Up to 165cc (SS Indian):** 1. Madhan R (ACCSYS India Rookies Racing) (13.896s); 2. Bharathraj J. (Rockers Racing) (14.081s); 3. Aravind Ganesh (ACCSYS India Rookies Racing) (14.130s).

**Girls (Stock 165cc):** 1. Jagathishree Kumaresan (One Racing) (16.561s); 2. S.P. Shuria (One Racing) (16.894s); 3. Aisvariya (Motul Sparks Racing) (17.158s).

**2-Stroke (131-165cc, SS):** 1. Imran (12.719s); 2. Prashanth (12.904); 3. Balasubramanian (ACCSYS India Rookies Racing) (13.293s).

**2-Stroke (Up to 130cc, SS):** 1. Balasubramanian (Big Boys Racing) (13.329s); 2. Shahrukh (13.388s); 3. Madhan (Big Boys Racing) (13.425s).

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| Tenure | : On Contract basis for a period of 3 years |
| Eligibility & Experience | : The Internal Ombudsman shall either be a retired or serving officer, in the rank equivalent to a General Manager of another bank / Financial Sector Regulatory Body / NBSP / NBFC / CIC, having necessary skills and experience of minimum seven years of working in areas such as banking, non-banking finance, regulation, supervision, payment and settlement systems, credit information or consumer protection. |

The application should reach the Bank on or before 14.07.2024.

**HOW TO APPLY** : Candidates are requested to apply only **ON-LINE** through TMB's website **www.tmbnet.in/tmb_careers/.** No other mode of submission of application will be accepted by the Bank. Register your correct email ID/ Mobile Number while creating User ID.

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Nomination and Remuneration Committee of the Board
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